

# *The* **KINGBIRD**



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**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

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(Signed) Dorothy W. McIlroy  
Editor



# The KINGBIRD

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Vol. XVIII No. 4

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Pages 181-230

## CONTENTS

### Photographs of New York State Rarities

15. Boat-tailed Grackle . . . . . Benjamin Trimble and Peter W. Post	182
1969 Annual Meeting Notice . . . . .	183
1969 Waterfowl Count Dates . . . . .	183
Edward C. Ulrich — A Tribute . . . . . Harold D. Mitchell	184
President's Page . . . . . David B. Peakall	185
The Little Gull in Western New York Joanna Burger and Richard Brownstein	187
Why a Conservation Bill of Rights . . . . . Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.	195
Field Notes	
The Prairie Warbler in Chemung County . . . . . Wilifred I. Howard	197
Common Raven Observations in Essex County, Northern Adirondacks, Spring and Summer 1968 . . . . . Harriet L. Delafield	198
Wheatear at Van Cortlandt Park, New York City Ogden Goelet, Jr. and Susan Koelle	200
Unusual Concentration of Singing Slate-colored Juncos near Owego Ruth Williams	200
Apparent Recognition of Danger by Evening Grosbeaks . . . Erma J. Fisk	200
Highlights of the Summer Season	
June 1 — August 1 . . . . . David B. Peakall	201
Regional Reports . . . . .	202
Book Review . . . . .	230

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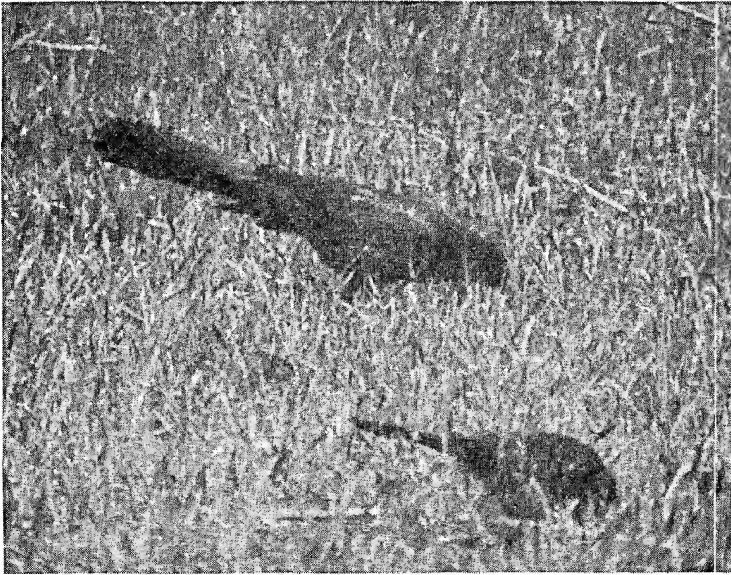
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## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

### 15. *Boat-tailed Grackle*



*Boat-tailed Grackle with Common Grackle*  
Photograph by Joanne Trimble  
Lawrence, Nassau Co., 11 May 1968

The range of the Boat-tailed Grackle, *Cassidex major*, extends along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States from southern New Jersey to Texas (various sources). Until recently this form was considered conspecific with its sibling species, the Great-tailed Grackle, *C. mexicanus*, which breeds from Texas and Arizona to northern South America (Selander & Giller, *Condor*, 63(1):29-86, 1961).

In the past few decades the Boat-tailed Grackle has extended its range northward and now breeds in Cape May and Cumberland counties, New Jersey (*First supplement to the annotated list of New Jersey birds*, Urner Ornithological Club, 1959:11). In the northern part of its range the species is restricted to coastal lowlands and tidal marshes. Much apparently suitable habitat of this type is found north of Cape May in the coastal marshes of both New Jersey and Long Island, New York, but the species is still strictly accidental in this area.

The sighting of an adult female Boat-tailed Grackle, after hurricane Carol, at Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., by Dennis Puleston, on 1 September 1954, earned the species a place on the New York State hypothetical list (Bull, *Birds of the New York City Area*, Harper & Row, N.Y., 1964: 477).

The only other record for the state is an adult male, shown in the above photograph, which appeared at the feeder of Dr. Robert A. Berman, in Lawrence, Nassau Co., during early April 1967. This location is adjacent to the locally well known Lawrence Marsh area, an extensive tidal wetland. The bird was studied at leisure by numerous observers, including John Bull, who was the first to verify the identification. During its stay it was frequently seen in direct comparison with Common Grackles, *Quisculus quiscula*; on May 11 photographs were obtained, several of which show both species side by side. The call notes of the Boat-tailed, which included the diagnostic long drawn-out whistle, were heard on many occasions. The bird, present through the summer and fall until at least Nov. 3, also fed regularly in several other backyards in the area. Apparently the same individual reappeared at the same place March 10, 1968 and remained at least through May 31 [*Kingbird* 18(2): 118 May 1968 and 18(3): 179, July 1968].

Benjamin Trimble, 47 Delancey Street, New York, N.Y. 10002.

Peter W. Post, 575 West 183 Street, New York, N.Y. 10033; Present address. Columbia University Field Station, Apartado 1-U, Calama, Chile.

## 1969 ANNUAL MEETING

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Federation will be held on May 23, 24, 25 at Cortland, New York.

General Chairman—Mrs. David Siedenburgh of the Cortland County Bird Club.

Members who wish to present a paper during the Saturday afternoon paper session should write to Dr. John Gustafson, Department of Biology, SUNY College at Cortland, Cortland, New York 13045.

Field trips are being planned to the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell (Sapsucker Woods), to McLean Bog, Bluebird Ridge, and other interesting bird areas.

## 1969 WATERFOWL COUNT

The annual Federation Waterfowl Count will be held from Saturday, January 11 to Sunday, January 19, 1969. Target date is Sunday, January 12. Send your count results to John L. Mitchell, 345 Conrad Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14616 as soon as possible after the count period.



## EDWARD C. ULRICH — A TRIBUTE

One of my best friends, Edward C. Ulrich, a life member of our Federation, died on May 21, 1968, at the age of 73. Those who knew him well realized that he was an unusually gifted man. Although he lacked a college education, he took extension courses, particularly in the natural sciences, at Technical High School and the University of Buffalo. He was also an intensive reader and a keen observer, and thus accumulated an extensive knowledge of zoology, botany and geology, and an appreciation of the aesthetics. For example, regarding his trip to Alaska, he wrote:

"At the extreme northwest tip of this physiographic complex (North America) lies Alaska, a land that is bordered by mountains and temperate ocean currents and also by arctic tundra and arctic seas, a land of mountains, glaciers and huge river deltas, repositories of the elements wrought from the hills. Summer days of long sunshine and protracted warmth give way to long winter nights and frigid cold. Contrasts with a harmony of purpose blend to make Alaska a place of speculative wonder and also exciting grandeur.

There is a challenge, which thus presented, requires an answer, the answer to which lies in a trip from the hardwood belt of the east, through the spruces and pines of the north central area, across the prairie and onto the plains to that point where the flat lands almost abruptly end and meet the basal hills. Here, with the first glimpses of the farther mountains, the horizons alter, in patterns that change as the passage of clouds reveal or conceal the outlines of the snow covered higher ranges and form a condition whereby the mountains and the clouds blend closely with and merge, almost inseparably, each from the other." [*Audubon Outlook* 16(3): 14, July 1967].

Ed's skill as a very proficient carpenter contractor was often used to great advantage in his conservation activities, in which he gave unselfishly of his time and effort. He joined the newly formed Buffalo Ornithological Society in 1930, and contributed much to the success of that society. He became its president from 1940 to 1942, and was made a fellow in 1941. He edited "The Prothonotary" from 1939 to 1947 and he wrote many articles for its pages. Ed also was a great help in the maintenance of the society's Grand Island Refuge.

Shortly after Ed joined the Buffalo Ornithological Society he met Alice Sherman at meetings and on field trips, and an ornithological romance developed, leading to their marriage in 1937. They enjoyed many trips to interesting localities from coast to coast and later took us on many of these trips via motion pictures. The couple became active in our Federation, attended many of our meetings, and Ed was a great help to Alice when she edited "The Kingbird" from July, 1961, to December, 1964.

An ardent conservationist, Mr. Ulrich wrote many articles to aid the

cause, and was among the first to speak up on important conservation issues. He was a life member of the Nature Conservancy and was chairman of our local Western New York Chapter at the time of his death. He did much to enhance the value and to promote greater use by the nature-loving public of its refuges, particularly Deer Lick.

As a life member of the Wilson Ornithological Society, and a member of the American Ornithologists' Union, he attended a number of their annual meetings. Ed was also a member of the Buffalo Audubon Society, the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York and the Izaak Walton League of America.

Edward Ulrich was a man whom we all loved and respected. I feel that my association with him greatly enriched my life.

*Harold D. Mitchell, 238 West Royal Parkway, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221*

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

There are a number of changes that I wish to report to the Federation. Before listing these appointments, I would like to make one general point. It is obviously impossible for me to know all the members of the Federation and thus my choice for appointments is in that way limited. If you are interested in serving the Federation in any way I would be delighted to hear from you.

The board of directors is happy to announce that they have appointed Mr. Edward Somers of Albany to take over the position of treasurer from Dort Cameron who wishes to resign at the end of the year. I would like to thank Dort for the work he has done for the Federation over the last two years and more personally for the able assistance he gave me when I was so tragically catapulted into the office of president. The Federation is also indebted to Dort Cameron and Dick Sloss for their painstaking work in obtaining tax exempt status for our organization. This unglamorous work is valuable to the Federation.

As requested at the last council meeting I have set up a committee to examine the organization of the Federation. The chairman is Dick Sloss, the chairman of the by-laws committee, and the other members are two former presidents—Allan Klonick and Harold Mitchell. The committee will report to the next council meeting; any member having comments and suggestions should contact one of the committee.

Alice Ulrich has taken over the bulletin exchange committee and any clubs interested in exchanging their publications with other member clubs should get in touch with her. I hope that many clubs will take advantage of this service for the exchange of ideas and news.

Bob Arbib has expressed the wish to stand down as chairman of the state bird book committee. Bob has served on this vital committee for many years, wrote the standard of frequency and abundance (*Audubon Field Notes* 11: 63-64, 1957) and the sample write-up of the Common Loon (*Kingbird* 13: 132-140, 1963) and spent much time in the thankless task of attempting to raise funds for the state bird book. The other member of the Federation whose name should be mentioned in this connection is that of our first president, Dr. Gordon Meade. Now that an able editor has been found and the Federation is not involved in the financial arrangements it seems unnecessary to have a state bird book committee as such. I hope that individual members and the research committee of the Federation will continue to aid John Bull in his work. One point on which members could help now is the sending of habitat photographs to illustrate the volume to John Bull at the American Museum of Natural History. All those photographs used will be acknowledged in the book.

We are busy reorganizing the conservation committee. The idea is to set up five regional conservation chairmen. Their task will be to pass information from our conservation chairman—Max Wheat—to the clubs in their region and conversely bring local problems to the attention of the conservation committee. We hope to have a Federation representative in every member club as a contact person for the regional chairman. I hope that those clubs which have not replied to my letter on this subject will do so soon. We are planning to send "Conservation Now" to all members and Ted Dittrich of Syracuse is undertaking the editorship. At the last council meeting it was decided to affiliate with the New York State Conservation Council. So far I have received no word from them as to how they view the application. After the heated debate in Rochester it would be ironical if we were "black-balled." While on this subject I would like to mention that I have joined, as a private individual, the scientific advisory board of the Environmental Defense Fund.

I would like to draw your attention to the notice of the 1968 annual meeting that appears in this issue. This meeting will be held in Cortland on May 23-25, 1969, where I hope you will give me the chance to decrease my limitations mentioned in the first paragraph.

The plea for new memberships has been made by all presidents and I do not wish to be an exception. Are the officers and active members of your club individual members of the Federation? I feel that they should be.

*David B. Peakall*



## THE LITTLE GULL IN WESTERN NEW YORK

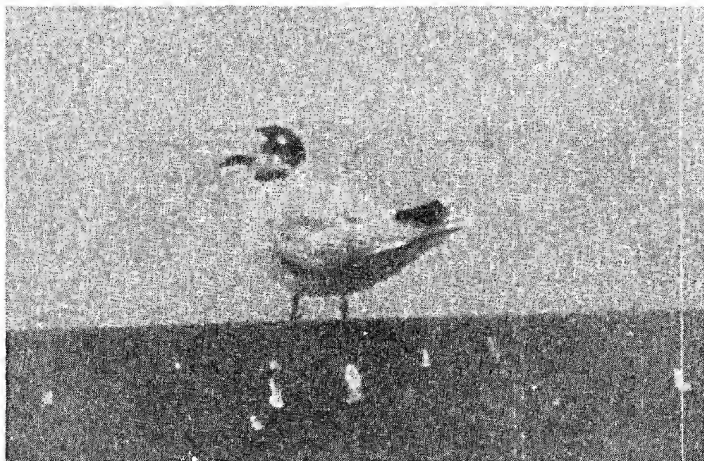
JOANNA BURGER AND RICHARD BROWNSTEIN

One of the most interesting events in recent ornithology has been the "invasion" of the Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) into eastern North America from the Old World and the discovery of its breeding in Ontario, Canada. Once considered casual in North America (*A.O.U. Checklist*, 1957), it can now be considered regular in some parts of eastern North America, notably western New York State. A short review of this species' occurrence in North America will be followed by a discussion of its status in western New York.

Baillie (1963) considered the Little Gull to "be a rare but regular associate of Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) on its spring, fall and winter visits to the eastern part of the continent, particularly around the lower Great Lakes and in the northeastern United States." He also stated that this species had occurred in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania in the United States, and in Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan in Canada (*op. cit.*). Since 1962 the Little Gull has also occurred in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Wisconsin, Michigan and Texas, as reported in *Audubon Field Notes* (Vols. 16-21).

The Little Gull breeds from Denmark, Sweden, Finland and northwestern Russia south to northern Germany, eastern Poland, southcentral Russia and central Siberia (*A.O.U. Checklist*, 1957). There are two major theories concerning the origin of the birds that have led or are in the process of leading to the probable colonization of this species in the New World. The traditional view is that the Little Gull crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Europe (Forbush, 1925). A more recent view holds that the major source of birds is individuals from Asia which wandered across the Bering Sea to North America, where they ultimately encountered flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls and were swept southeastward with them in the fall flight. The latter view is supported by Conkey and Griscom (1935), Chapin (1933, 1936) and reiterated by Baillie (1963).

The steady increase in reports over the last two decades of both adult and immature Little Gulls throughout eastern North America culminated in the discovery of the first New World nesting of this species in Oshawa, Ontario in 1962 by Scott (1963). The nests were masses of cattail leaves floating in two feet of water in a small area of a marsh. On 1 June 1962 the nests held 1, 2, and 3 eggs; each held 3 eggs on 3 June; all eggs had been destroyed by 22 June. On 8 and 15 June 1963, one nest with 3 eggs was found in the same locality. Subsequent visits were not made so the outcome of the nest was not determined. A single adult male and one egg were collected on 11 June 1962 by Baillie (1963) for the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada.



*Photograph by Joanna Burger  
Niagara River, mid-September 1967.*

In the above photograph of a Little Gull standing on a wall along the Niagara River, note the black wing lining of the right wing, and the smaller, rounder appearance of the head due to the shorter, stubbier bill.

### *Buffalo Area*

Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) classify the Little Gull as an uncommon, sometimes rare fall transient visitant, occasional very rare winter and spring visitant, and a casual summer visitant. The first report for this species in the western New York region is that of a bird observed 20 November 1938 near Bird Island in the Niagara River (Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965). Since that time, however, the species has been recorded every fall, with the lone exception of 1942. It may thus be classified as a "regular" fall transient, occurring from 8 August to 21 January. Records of the Buffalo Ornithological Society indicate that the Little Gull is an irregular spring migrant from 6 April to 9 May. It is an irregular winter visitant in the area.

The autumn flight is typically from late August to early January. Since 1950, there have been two records prior to 19 August (8 Aug 1964, 15 Aug 1966).<sup>\*</sup> A single adult was observed 1 August 1966 at nearby Rock Point Provincial Park, Ontario.

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<sup>\*</sup>Unless otherwise noted, records are from the *Prothonotary* for that recording period. Records after September 1967 are not included.

There appear to be two peaks in the numbers of Little Gulls in their fall flight through the western New York area. As many as five individuals have been reported in late September along the Niagara River (20-27 Sept 1966) and as many as ten in late November between Niagara Falls and Lewiston [21 Nov 1964, *Kingbird* 15(1): 27]. Since Little Gulls are invariably found in close association with the Bonaparte's Gulls, it is not surprising to note that the appearance of the second peak movement of Little Gulls correlates positively with the second of two major waves of Bonaparte's Gulls in this area (Beardslee, 1964; Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965).

Little Gulls are likewise most commonly found in areas most frequented by Bonaparte's Gulls in the western New York area: the Niagara River, Dunkirk harbor, and the Canadian shore of easternmost Lake Erie. The authors consider that birds seen on the Ontario side of narrow international waters (e.g. the Niagara River, the extreme NE tip of Lake Erie) should be included with the records from western New York, as not only may most of these birds be observed from New York territory, but these birds also have been observed countless times to cross repeatedly into the waters of both sovereignties.

Until 1962, only one or two individuals were reported for any given day in September. In 1963, four birds were reported on the Niagara River on 7 September and 24 September; and in 1965 and 1966, five birds were recorded on the River in one day (11 Sept 1965 and 20 to 27 Sept 1966).

It is interesting that October records are usually for single birds, although in 1964 as many as four birds were noted in a single day, and in 1965 and 1966 as many as five birds were recorded on the Niagara River (31 Oct 1965, 1 Oct 1966, 5 Oct 1966 and 10 Oct 1966). It is noteworthy that there are more records for the last three years than for the previous thirteen years.

There are more records for November than any other month, and again there are more records in later years. As many as six individuals were recorded in November 1958, seven in November 1959, and the ten in November 1964 mentioned above. The 1959 record, from unpublished data of Richard Brownstein, provides an interesting correlation for the maximum of nine birds noted 90 miles north of Buffalo in Toronto, Ontario by Gunn on 4 October 1959 (Baillie, 1963). It is significant to note that during a similar period in 1959, Brownstein and Schaffner observed 100,000 Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River (Burger and Brownstein, 1968).

December records are usually of single birds, with a maximum of one to four on 1-16 December 1959. All records from January to August are for one or two birds on any given day.

The advent of the typical mid-winter polar systems with sub-freezing temperatures generally signals the withdrawal of the Bonaparte's Gull concentrations with their more illustrious companions. The Little Gull,

nonetheless, has been recorded in 8 of the last 17 Januaries, the latest individual observed on 21 January 1950.

The birds observed in February of 1949, 1950, 1953, 1954 and 1960 as well as one reported 6 March 1960 are presumed to be wintering birds. In all cases they were single birds observed with the wintering flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River.

The earliest spring record is 6 April 1952. Other early dates include individuals recorded 7 April 1946 (Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965) and 17 April that same year. The reference in Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) to a bird seen in Dunkirk harbor 10 April 1939 appears to be in error. From 1950 through 1966 there have been four records in April and one in May (2 May 1953). Single Little Gulls were observed in Dunkirk harbor on 14 April, 23 April and 9 May of 1967 by the authors, and an immature was reported there 14 May 1967 [*Kingbird* 17(3): 154]. The 9 May bird (also an immature) and the 14 May record, presumably the same bird, represent late spring dates. Three Little Gulls were observed by Curry on the Niagara River on 23 April 1967. It is noteworthy that 6 of the 8 records of spring migrants from the past 16 years occurred in 1966 and 1967.

No summer records exist for Buffalo in June and July. Two July records from Ontario are worth noting: a single bird observed inland by Axtell in Ontario (3 miles from the Niagara River) on 9 July 1966, and one at Rockhouse Point, Ontario on 26 July 1966. A single bird was observed in international waters on 22 July 1967 at Erie Beach, Ontario.

Records of the Buffalo Ornithological Society indicate that the species is increasing. Prior to 1958, one or two birds was the maximum observed on any given day; after that date it was not unusual to observe three or four on the Niagara River in September, October or November. Prior to 1959, the Little Gull was reported on 12 or fewer days in any year. In 1959 it was reported from November 6 until December 16. Since 1959, careful examination of the Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River has usually resulted in finding at least one Little Gull between early September and early December.

Figure 1 illustrates the Little Gulls observed in the Buffalo area from 1950 until 1966. All birds are from the New York State area of the Niagara Frontier except the single bird for the period of July 1 through 10 and July 20 through 30. Each month is divided into ten-day periods; and the 1 day-1 gull units added and plotted for that ten-day period. For example, in the period of Jan 1 to Jan 10, 8 birds were reported from 1950 to 1966. Note that it could be 1 bird observed for 8 days, or 8 birds observed on 1 day, or any combination of these two. All records are from the *Prothonotary* Vols. 16-32.

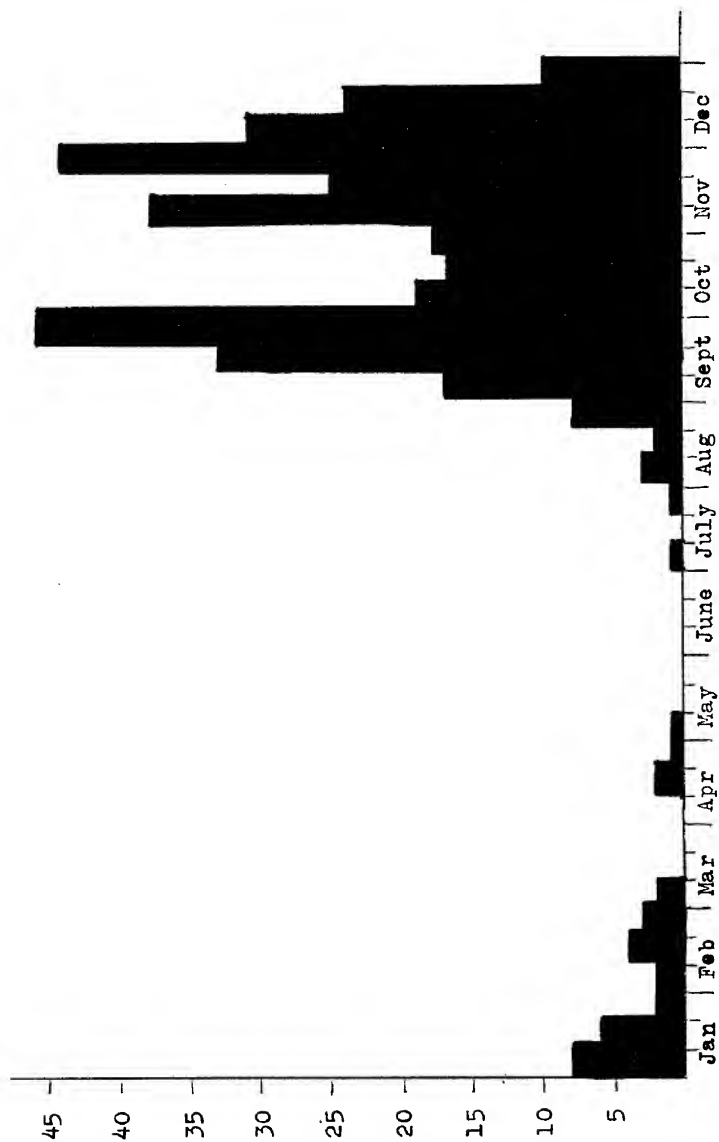


Fig 1. Total Number of Little Gulls Observed in Buffalo, N.Y. 1950-1966.  
See the text for explanation.



Maxima: 31 August 1965 — 2  
11 Sept. 1965 — 5  
27 Sept. 1966 — 5  
31 Oct. 1965 — 5  
21 Nov. 1964 — 10  
23 Nov. 1959 — 7  
8 Nov. 1958 — 6  
1 Dec. 1959 — 4  
8 Jan. 1955 — 2

The Buffalo Museum has three specimens: one collected by H. D. Mitchell on 10 Nov 1941 at Bird Island Pier (BSNS 2030); one collected by R. F. Andrle at Austin Street on the Niagara River, 25 Nov 1959 (BSNS 5083); one collected by R. F. Andrle at Bird Island Pier, 6 Oct 1966 (BSNS 5078).

### *Rochester*

The Little Gull is an irregular spring and fall migrant and winter resident in the Rochester area. No records are known for this species prior to one bird observed at Charlotte on 17 December 1939 (Secker, 1941). This or another individual was observed on 1 January of the following year.

Little Gulls were observed in 1947, 1948 and 1949.\* Although previously only single birds had been observed, Chapin saw two at Braddock's Bay on 23 June 1948. The two individuals remained in the area until 22 July 1948. On 23 July 1948 Klonick and Boardman collected a mature male at Braddock's Bay, which is now in the Rochester Museum Collection (specimen unnumbered).

Little Gulls have been recorded in the Rochester area every year since 1953 except for 1955. Previous to 1965, more than two birds were observed at any one time only twice: three at Braddock's Bay 25 June 1961 [*Kingbird* 11(3): 157] and three at Russell Station 5 January 1964 [*Kingbird* 14(2): 99]. In August of 1965 as many as four individuals were observed at one time.

Figure 2 illustrates the Little Gulls observed in the Rochester area from 1950 until 1966. The 1 day-1 gull units used in Figure 1 are used in this illustration. Note that the Little Gull has occurred in every month except February and March.

### *Summary*

The Little Gull is a regular fall migrant, and an irregular spring migrant and winter visitant in western New York. As many as 10 individuals have been noted in one day along the Niagara River from Niagara

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\*Records for the Rochester area are from the *Goshawk* for that reporting period unless otherwise noted.

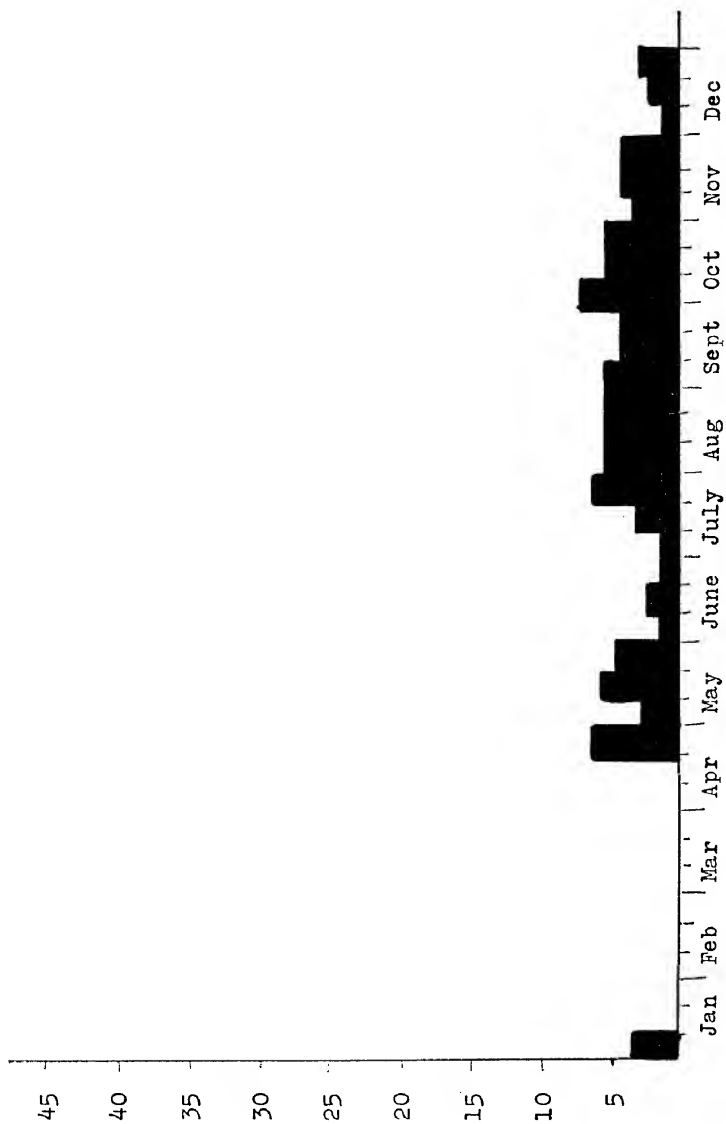


Fig 2. Total Number of Little Gulls Observed in Rochester, N.Y. 1950-1966

Falls to Lewiston and as many as 7 on the River in the Buffalo area; as many as 4 have been noted in one day along the shore of Lake Ontario in the Rochester area. Records of the Buffalo and Genesee Ornithological Societies indicate that the species is increasing in numbers.

Joanna Burger, Dept. of Biology, State University College, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14222; Present address: James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. 55455.

Richard Brownstein, 530 Walbridge Building, Buffalo, N.Y.

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## WHY A CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

Why is the fate of our land, our water, our forests, our marshes, our wildlife, our air—indeed, our health and perhaps our very existence as a species—in the hands of so few?

In concert with chief executives like governors, these few seem to be the heads and members of authorities and commissions, plus department chiefs of transportation, public works, etc., not to mention the top executives of big corporations and utilities.

There are 28 authorities in New York State according to political reporter John M. Greene in *The Long Island Press*. "These authorities are just what the name implies," he wrote. "After they are created the state has no control over them. Neither do the taxpayers."

This fall conservationists on both sides of Long Island Sound were feeling almost feeble over indications that New York's Metropolitan Authority, headed by Dr. William J. Ronan, was prepared to proceed with a six to seven mile bridge from Rye to Oyster Bay as soon as location and design were approved by the State Department of Transportation.

This despite the lack of studies on the possible ecological effects of a bridge. A Connecticut commission recently began studies of whether a bridge with fill or embankment near the shore could add to the pollution. To give time to obtain study results and come up with an over-all plan for the Sound, Rep. Lester Wolf of Long Island has for two years had a bill introduced calling for a moratorium on such public works projects as bridges.

Now conservationists fear that the Sound may literally be getting into hot water—that from the thermal pollution of proposed nuclear power plants along the shores. In this connection, conservationists from both shores meeting last summer gave a lot of attention to Cayuga Lake—a couple of hundred miles upstate. For this longest of the Finger Lakes also faces a nuclear plant (See a very informative article in the August-September 1968 issue of *The Conservationist*, *Cornell Scientists See Thermal Pollution of Cayuga Lake by Planned Nuclear Power Plant*.)

The writers point out that resulting reduced oxygen could be detrimental for animal life—this being one of "various adverse effects." Also, "small amounts of radioactive materials will be released routinely into the lake with water discharged from the plant," they write. These possibilities, plus the prognosis that by 1980 some 20 per cent of the fresh water runoff in the nation could be used for cooling purposes by the power industry with "a potentially disastrous impact on all forms of aquatic life—fish and birds," in the words of Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, led the Long Island Sound conservationists to call for passage of his bill, *The Electric Power Plant Siting Act of 1968*. Sen. Ken-

nedy has proposed that the Atomic Energy Commission declare a moratorium on the licensing of nuclear power plants until after the Federal Power Commission (or preferably some group that could be more assuringly objective) shall have made a study of the potential dangers.

In effect, the conservationists were asking relief from a bill passed in the closing, hectic days of the New York State legislature last spring—A6305 and S5746. It gave Consolidated Edison and other power companies the right to condemn privately owned land for atomic energy development. This has followed the pattern of the legislators in taking power the people should have and delivering it to the authorities and now the utilities. In effect, these huge entities are now a law unto themselves and unless there is some repealing done in the Legislature the public is at their mercy.

Do the authority members, utility executives, Department of Transportation officials, etc., have any feeling or insight regarding possible effect on our environment? This question is not asked accusingly. In fact, it is really an intangible, subjective query, but one which arouses concern. For if a person has not consciously experienced the beauties of our natural environment or has not had experience or training in the intricacies of the ecology, can this person comprehend the impact of such a warning as that of Lloyd V. Berkner, who points out that our supply of atmospheric oxygen comes largely from diatoms at sea and that these diatoms are concentrating pesticides washed into the ocean. He warns that “if our pesticides should be reducing the supply of diatoms or forcing evolution of less productive mutants, we might find ourselves running out of atmospheric oxygen.”

It is not hard to understand why there were moves this fall to get a Conservation Bill of Rights amendment started through the next legislative session, and to the people—one modeled after that included in the proposed new constitution that was defeated at the polls in 1967. Gathering strength is a national movement for a Federal Constitutional Conservation Bill of Rights to guarantee “clean air, pure water, freedom from unnecessary noise” and assure people that “the natural scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment shall not be abridged.” It was H. J. 1321 introduced by Representative Richard Ottinger of New York and others.

To dramatically alert the public to its need and also to exert moral persuasion on those who might all too casually vote for some narrowly studied bridge, nuclear facility, pesticides appropriation, etc., perhaps it would be well to have a joint session of the Congress addressed by some outstanding, independent scientist who can “tell it as it is.” It could be a State of the Environment Address. Or it could be a State of the Environment panel discussion (perhaps the first before a joint session) by several ecologists, biologists, sociologists, etc. and be repeated each year until there has been a roll-back on environment pollution on a massive scale.



IN BRIEF: The Huntington Audubon Society is holding a series of Audubon Wildlife Tours this year with remaining ones set for Jan. 30 (*Scandinavian Saga*) and April 2 (*Ranch and Range*) at John Glen High School 8:15 p.m. at \$1.50. . . . The Linnaean Society of New York is continuing for a second year its series of beginner's lectures with the following left on the schedule at 7 p.m. at the American Museum of Natural History: Jan. 19, Birds of the Region emphasizing rarities and how to collect and submit records; March 18, The Ornithological Year and May 20, The Role of the Amateur with discussion of ornithological projects, surveys and investigations. . . . The Scarsdale Audubon Society is sponsoring a forum on conservation at 8 p.m., Thursday Jan. 9 in the Greenacres School in Scarsdale and the Federation conservation chairman has been invited to speak on State Conservation Legislation, 1969.  
333 Bedell Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520

## FIELD NOTES

**The Prairie Warbler in Chemung County:** The Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) was first identified in migration in a Horseheads swamp by Mrs. Kay Fudge about 1959, and was verified by several others. In 1961 the species was found on May 10 by Mrs. Fudge and Mrs. Mary Smith on the road to Sullivan's Monument on the Newtown Battlefield Reservation near Elmira and observed by nearly all active birders in the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. A pair stayed on this slope, elevation 900-1200 feet, that year and at least one pair has returned each year to this area.

The second location was discovered on May 17, 1962 in a planting of young pines and on adjoining brushy slopes along the Mt. Zoar and Combs Hill Roads which parallel each other along a narrow valley near Southport. The first spring "Prairie" is always reported between May 3 and 10 from either this location or the Newtown Battlefield area. As many as three singing birds have stayed in the Mt. Zoar area during one season. On July 15, 1968 I heard three singing males, saw a pair (male and female), and had a glimpse of two others I thought were immatures.

The third general area is the Comfort Hill Road in the Town of Ashland, also about 900-1200 feet in elevation. Three singing males were found in May 1965 by Mary Smith. The habitat, brushy fields with scattered scrubby pines, is similar to the habitat of the two other locations. The singing birds were 1½ to 2 miles apart, unlike Mrt. Zoar where they were much closer.

On May 27, 1965 Mary Smith and I found a singing Prairie Warbler on a brushy hillside on the Clark Road, Town of Chemung. Because the location was not easily accessible to us, it has not been re-checked. There have also been one or two other reports in mid-May from small reforestation projects near Horseheads which have not been followed up.

It is interesting to note that in nearly every one of the locations there was also a Yellow-breasted Chat in residence. All were on hillsides or hilltops.

Wilfred I. Howard, 610 Coburn Street, Elmira, N.Y. 14904

ED. NOTE: The Prairie Warbler is a rare breeding bird in western New York and the Southern Tier, as indicated by the following references:

Eaton (*Birds of New York*, Part II, 191: 432): "local in distribution. . . . During the last 30 years it certainly has been a rare summer resident in central and western New York."

Reilly and Parkes (*Preliminary Annotated Checklist of New York State Birds*, 1959: 35): "common breeder Long Island, rarer in Hudson Valley; now very rare in remainder of State; formerly widespread."

Beardslee and Mitchell (*Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, 1965, p. 385): "of rare occurrence in western New York. . . only certain breeding record . . . 1904."

A check of *Kingbird* regional reports indicates the following breeding status in this area:

Region 1: no evidence of breeding.

Region 3: only other recent nesting, Connecticut Hill southwest of Ithaca, first nest 1960.

Region 4: first summer record since *Kingbird* began publication, 1967 at Vestal Center—seen carrying food July 4.

**Common Raven Observations in Essex County, Northern Adirondacks, Spring and Summer 1968:** So far as I can find, no Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) records exist for the Adirondacks in the past forty years or more; so it was with some excitement that Geoffrey Carleton reported a raven on May 27, 1968. He had been climbing and heard the bird at about 2700 feet. On his way down he saw the raven about 75 feet from him. He described the "whooping," the slotted wings and long wedge-shaped tail.

On the very next day, Greenleaf T. Chase, who was unaware of Carleton's report, was checking a nest of unknown origin that had been reported to him in rough territory about six miles from where Carleton spotted the raven. Imagine his amazement when he heard the unmistakable croaking of ravens and saw two birds soaring above the nest site!

On May 29, 1968 I went to check the nest. The day was cold and windy and the storm blew right into the nest cavity where the big pile of sticks was located. The ravens did not move about much, but I could hear them croaking and occasionally see one as it came out for a short flight. Through a 20× scope it looked as if they stood with wings outstretched in order to protect something within the cavity.

On June 1, Carleton reported: "Adults flying around cliff and then standing on rock on top of it; three young standing on ledge in or next to nest, changing positions." On June 2 Gordon Meade "had good look at the ravens."

For various reasons no one of us was able to check on the nest between June 2 and June 14. What dismay when John Bull and Robert Wolk, who drove up that weekend, reported no nest though they had been well briefed where to look—same result on their return visit on June 17!

Elizabeth Anderson and I were unable to get back to the nest site until June 21. The nest was indeed gone—not a stick could we see, as we stood about 400 feet below the nest site. Then we heard a harsh "cr-o-ownk" and saw first one bird, then more. Our detailed notes, taken on the spot, are too long to include in their entirety, but the gist of them is the following:

We arrived at the nest site at 10:30 a.m. and again it was cold; the overnight low had been 45 degrees and it never went over 46 degrees all day. The nest cliff was in shadow but a raven arose from a pondside and swept up to a sunny cliff opposite the nest cliff. Soon we were able to pick out three ravens sunning themselves on a flattish rock slope. Gradually, because of their slightly smaller size, brownish coloration on the neck (well visible with 20× scope and 7× binoculars in the fine light on the sunlit rock) as well as their more awkward flight, it became apparent that two were young birds.

Later they flew back to the nest ledge where they were joined by a second adult, and where they landed in young birches about 100 feet below the nest site. The two young flopped about, begging for food. It was evident that, despite the disappearance of the nest, the ravens had successfully raised two young. When we left the pond at 12:21 p.m. the temperature was 40 degrees and the light excellent.

Robert Hagar saw two adult ravens and two young being fed on June 22. David Young saw four birds which he did not have time to examine closely, on the same day. Hagar again saw four birds on July 16 and heard one calling in a severe storm on August 7.

I have now received three additional reports of single ravens seen elsewhere in the Adirondacks since that date.

In a little pamphlet "Birds of the Adirondack Area" written not too long before the above observations were made, Geoffrey Carleton says, in speaking of the boreal species: "The rarer of the above species are handicapped by the isolation of the Adirondacks from other northwoods areas because of the St. Lawrence and Champlain valleys. By contrast, species in New Hampshire, from the White Mountains north, have a source of resupply in the continuous northwoods forests extending all the way through northern Maine to the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec. Thus, the Common Raven is making a comeback in northern New Hampshire but not, so far, in New York."

Harriet L. Delafield, Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

ED. NOTE: Published records of the Common Raven in the Adirondacks in recent years are indeed scarce. DeKay (*Natural History of New York, Zoology of New York*, Part II, Birds, 1844: 134) had listed the raven as "rare in the State, except in the northern district, where I have noticed it to be common and where it breeds." No specific county or record was mentioned. About 70 years later, Eaton (*Birds of New York*, Part I, 1910, p. 13 and Part II, 1914: 212, 213) listed it among resident species breeding "in the colder districts, mostly in the Adirondack region" and stated that "a few are seen in the western Adirondacks, especially in the northern portions of Hamilton and Herkimer Counties, the southern part of St. Lawrence County and the eastern portion of Lewis County. In this part of the North Woods the Raven still breeds but in constantly diminishing numbers." He mentioned several seen at Mt. Marcy by Verplanck Colvin on Oct. 23, 1875 as "stragglers." Eaton also reported in his survey of birds of the Mt. Marcy-Ausable lakes region in 1905 (*Op. cit.*, Part I: 45-47) that "No ravens inhabited this region" and that the Supt. of the Forest Preserve told him that ravens were seen there "only in late fall and winter and he had seen only two within 15 years."

Three more recent sightings of ravens in the Adirondacks by Greenleaf Chase have been published, two sightings probably fall migrants:

Three Sept. 24, 1951 near Harrisville, county not stated but it would be either St. Lawrence or Lewis [*Kingbird* 1(4): 103, Oct. 1951].

One in early April 1952 at Sable Mt. near Loon Lake fire tower, Franklin Co. [*Kingbird* 2(1): 16, April 1952]. This probably is the same one mentioned in *Audubon Field Notes* 6(3): 188, June 1952, as seen in early March 1952 in the central Adirondacks by Mr. Chase.

One at Saranac Inn, Franklin Co. about Oct. 15, 1954 [*Kingbird* 4(4): 113].

Dr. Walter Spofford has in his unpublished notes a record that Greenleaf Chase saw ravens in March, 1960, at the same place where this year's nest was found. On April 23, 1960 he and Mr. Chase checked this cliff which had been a regular nesting site of Peregrine Falcons. No raven was seen but the male Peregrine was there, the last year it was present as far as Dr. Spofford knows.

In view of the quotation from Geoffrey Carleton on the isolation of the Adirondacks from a resupply of ravens, the gradual spread of their nesting as documented in *Audubon Field Notes* is of interest:

1963—return of Common Ravens to Mts. Washington and Lafayette in N.H., pair at each in June "joined by 2 or 3 others, probably their young, by the end of July" [*Op. cit.* 17(5): 451, Oct. 1963].

1964—"three ravens photographed in and about nest in late May" in the Passaconaway valley, N.H. [*Op. cit.* 18(5): 497, Oct. 1964].

1965—nest with four young in old quarry at East Burke, Vt. [*Op. cit.* 19(5): 520 and 529, Oct. 1965].

**Wheatear at Van Cortlandt Park, New York City:** At about 12.30 P.M. on June 8, 1968 near the Parade Ground in Van Cortlandt Park, we spotted a bird slightly smaller than a Hermit Thrust on the ground approximately 30 feet in front of us. As it moved constantly about in an open area with sparse tufts of grass, we could see little of it except the gray head with a black mask running through the eyes straight to the bill, lined with white above. It vaguely suggested a shrike—but the bill was short and pointed. As we moved closer, the bird hopped up a small incline, occasionally flashing white in its tail. When it emerged onto an open roadway, we could see that the back was dark blue-gray, the wings quite dark, almost black, the breast washed with creamy buff, the legs dark. We checked the legs for a band, in case it might be an escapee; there was no band. Despite the nervous twitching and wagging of its tail, the bird not only stayed on the roadway for most of five minutes, but also allowed us to approach fairly close to it along the road. Although one of us had seen Wheatears (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) several times in this full plumage in Europe, it did not occur to us that this bird was a Wheatear until it finally flew up into some nearby shrubbery, clearly showing us the black and white “inverted T” pattern on the tail. Shortly afterwards it disappeared and we were unable to find it again.

Ogden Goellet, Jr., 140 East 92nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10028

Susan Koelle, 157 East 81st Street, New York, N.Y. 10028

ED. NOTE: This is the eighth appearance of this species in the Marine Region. Two other records were also in the spring—May 13, 1956 at Orient and June 3, 1941 at Moriches Inlet (John Bull, *Birds of the New York Area*). Of interest is another Wheatear reported in nearby Connecticut this May (see future issue of *Audubon Field Notes* for details). T. Davis

**Unusual Concentration of Singing Slate-colored Juncos near Owego:** On July 17, 1968 Mildred White and I observed an interesting number of singing Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) in the Frost Hollow area near Owego. On four trips to this area, we found eight singing birds in a distance of about 2 miles. At one stop we had two very disturbed birds and one with food in its bill. Elevations range from 1000' to 1250'. In addition, on the cross road, about a quarter mile to the south we saw another junco that was tail-fanning, but found no other near. Along about one and a half miles of the northern section of this cross road we found four more singing birds. Elevations there are 1250' to 1350'. Hemlock is the predominant tree along both roads. Juncos regularly nest at these higher elevations, but we have not previously noted such a concentration in this area.

Ruth Williams, P.O. Box 382, Owego, N.Y. 13827

**Apparent Recognition of Danger by Evening Grosbeaks:** On July 17, 1967, I caught in a 2-cell Potter trap, and banded, two adult male Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) at the window feeder of Dora Burnett in Old Forge, New York. They were in the trap perhaps 15 minutes before being liberated.

A week later I set the trap in the same position, hoping to catch the four young that were reported there the day before, or a third unbanded male in the area. (Females had been seen earlier, but were not coming to the feeder with the young.) The males flew to the feeder from the near-by tree in which they usually perched, but refused to land. When a young one flew toward the trap, a male intercepted it and drove it to the ground, refusing to let it come to the feeder. Both birds then fed on the ground.

This behavior was repeated on July 27th, neither of the two banded males landing on the feeder, although they fed freely beneath it, and no young being allowed to land. A third, unbanded male was trapped successfully. All of these birds had been in the habit of eating at the feeder, rather than on the ground, so it would seem that the trap was recognized now as a danger.



By July 30th, the young were independent, and after this both they and the adults came to the trap, singly. Several were caught and banded. Both this year, and in 1968, it appeared that the males brought the young to the feeder, and no females were seen at this time.

Erma J. Fisk, Covewood Lodge, Big Moose, N.Y. 13307

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

June 1—August 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

The Icterids, like the poor, are always with us. Three years ago I mentioned that there was some evidence that bird life was becoming less diverse and quoted the work of the Grabers in Illinois. They found that although the total number of breeding birds in that state had changed little from early this century, the numbers of many species had declined seriously whereas the population of only a few had markedly increased.

The Icterids are successful not only from the viewpoint of their numbers but also when judged by their recent range expansion. Three western species have been moving eastwards in the last few decades. These are the Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Brewer's Blackbird. The Western Meadowlark spread rapidly across Ontario after the first nesting in 1929. The first specimen for New York was obtained near Rochester in 1948. Evidence suggestive of breeding in the Rochester area was obtained in 1957 and in the Niagara Frontier in 1960. In 1962 nesting was definitely established near Poughkeepsie, in this case hybridising with an Eastern Meadowlark. It seems likely that the Western and Eastern Meadowlarks, formerly separated ecologically, are now coming together again. The Yellow-headed Blackbird first nested in Ontario in 1931 but its spread has been slower than that of the Western Meadowlark. However, recently it has bred in south-western Ontario. Brewer's Blackbird moved into Michigan in the late 1940's; there were only two records before 1943 but a decade later it was locally common in the Upper Peninsula and south-western Michigan. In Ontario it first bred in 1945 at Port Arthur, reached Sunbury by 1962 and southern Ontario (Wellington County) by 1967. It is now within a hundred miles of New York State. So far there have been few records of this species in the state; two sight records in 1953 and the first specimen in the winter of 1966. Even so, the remarkable range extension of this species suggests that it would be worth looking for breeding in this state.

The markedly increased production of young from the Osprey colony on Gardiner's Island is most encouraging. It suggests that there is still hope of reversing the downward path before breeding ceases completely. The rate of decline over the last fifteen years had suggested that this would occur within a few years. The correlation with the halting of the



spraying of Suffolk county with DDT for mosquito control is unproven scientifically but is certainly suggestive. The halting of this spraying was brought about by the Environmental Defense Fund. This organization is working through court actions to limit the spraying of persistent pesticides.

The nesting report of Black Rail on Long Island seems rather like black magic, but I have to admit I wish I was in on the magic. The first nesting of the House Finch in Region 8 represents further documentation of the spread of this species. Few state-wide changes were noted in the abundance of any species. Most of the changes noted by regional editors were local; Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows seem to be on the upswing, the Hooded Warbler is now a scarce bird throughout the state.

*Langmuir Laboratory, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850*

Abbreviations used in regional reports: arr—arrival, arrived; Co—County; imm—immature; L—Lake; max—maximum one-day count; mob—many observers; Pk—Park; Pt—Point; R—River; Rd—Road.

All numbers given are numbers of individuals unless otherwise stated.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

No report. This report period will be included in the January issue.

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for June were slightly below normal, for the rest of the period about average. Rainfall for June was slightly above average. July was very dry with only one-half the normal amount. The first half of August was very wet, with double the average rainfall.

A large number of late May migrants remained into early June in direct contrast to a year ago. A few ducks and shorebirds were recorded well into June. The few spots for migrant shorebirds dried up by late July and the early fall flight was almost nonexistent, the high lake level preventing even small mud flats.

Among the few noteworthy records may be mentioned the Glossy Ibis, Franklin's Gull and Western Meadowlark.

Observers cited in text: JJD—James J. Doherty; JF—John Foster; AEK—Mr. & Mrs. Allen E. Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WLL—Warren L. Lloyd; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; HSM—Howard S. Miller; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; FHP—Frank H. Phelps; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow.

Locations: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park; LS—Lake Shore; SA—Shore Acres.

LOONS—DUCKS: Black-crowned Night Heron: apparently a slight increase, max eight Jun 18 BB (WCL). Am. Bittern: occasional bird around BB and SA (several). Least Bittern: at least one pair present at SA until Aug 11 (ST *et al*). GLOSSY IBIS: one until Jul 1 at BB (WCL).

Brant: 12 June 1 at BB (HSM,RTO), only spring record. Pintail: two drakes Jun 15 SA (WCL). Green-winged Teal: two drakes until Aug 1 SA (WCL)—this species nests occasionally in our area. Shoveler: three Jun 12 Parma (WCL). Redhead: a pair Aug 11 BB (ST). Common Goldeneye: one female Jun 15 BB (WCL). Red-breasted Merganser: six Jun 1 BB (WCL), one female present in the same place until Aug 11 (ST). Hooded Merganser: one female Jul 19 at Long Rd., Greece (RTO)—this species occasionally nests locally.

HAWKS—OWLS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: one unsuccessfully attacked a Robin in Rochester Jun 25 (JJD), one Jul 1 Fairport (TET). Broad-winged Hawk: 175 Jun 1 LS (several), 208 Jun 2 LS (WLL,MS)—high count for so late, but some (mostly imm) are regularly recorded into early June. Bald Eagle: one imm Jun 2 BB (WLL, MS). Osprey: one Jun 1 BB (RTO *et al*).

Virginia Rail: three Jun 15 DEP (ST). Rails in general seemed scarce. Black-bellied Plover: three Aug 4 BB (WCL *et al*). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Jun 20 SA (JJD *et al*). White-rumped Sandpiper: two Jun 12 Parma (WCL). Least Sandpiper: max seven Jul 19 SA (RTO *et al*). Short-billed Dowitcher: no reports. Stilt Sandpiper: one Jul 7 SA (HSM,FHP)—only report. Semi-palmated Sandpiper: one Jun 20 SA (JJD *et al*). Western Sandpiper: two Jun 15–20 SA (WCL *et al*). FRANKLIN'S GULL: one Aug 4 BB (WCL).

Barn Owl: the nesting in Parma was unsuccessful, the only young bird being found dead in early Jul. The adults disappeared about this time.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: pairs probably nested in Parma and Pittsford. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: five netted Jun 1 BB (RGM *et al*). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Jul 4 Highland Pk, Rochester (RTO); one Jul 19 DEP (RTO *et al*), the species is known to have nested in the latter area. Carolina Wren: one present continually in the DEP area (ST *et al*). Short-billed Marsh Wren: one Jul 19–20 Hamlin (JJD,FHP *et al*), our first record for three years. On the latter date, the meadow was mowed. Eastern Bluebird: seven Jun 1 BB (WCL *et al*). Whether these birds were actually migrating at this late date or had nested locally and were just roaming around the area is unknown. It was not determined if all the birds were adults but the bird is a rare nester along the lakeshore. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Jun 1 BB (JF,WCL,TET), very late. Water Pipit: one Jun 1 BB (HSM,RTO), very late. Migrant Shrike: two pairs nested in Hamlin and raised young successfully (WCL,JJD *et al*).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one netted Jun 1 BB (RGM *et al*). Black-and-white Warbler: five Jun 1 BB (JF *et al*)—late. Tennessee Warbler: a singing male Jun 29 Webster (AEK)—extremely late. Magnolia Warbler: 12 Jun 1 BB (WCL *et al*). Black-throated Blue Warbler: a singing male Jul 1–31 Webster (AEK) was found repeatedly in the same woods near L Ontario. While no mate or nest was found, the area is ideal nesting terrain for this species and the bird may well have bred. The species is a very rare breeder in our area except in the elevated country in the southern section of our Region. Black-throated Green Warbler: a singing male Jul 7 Webster (AEK). Bay-breasted Warbler: five Jun 1 BB (TET *et al*). Blackpoll Warbler: 30 Jun 1 BB (WCL *et al*). Wilson's Warbler: 18 Jun 1 BB (TET *et al*).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark: one Jun 1–30 Hamlin (several) identified by song, call notes and paleness of the upper parts. Pine Siskin: one Jun 1–7 BB (WCL). White-crowned Sparrow: three Jun 1 BB (JF *et al*). White-throated Sparrow: one Jun 20 Island Cottage Woods (JJD). Lincoln's Sparrow: two Jun 1 BB (WCL), late but there is some indication of a very light flight at about this time.

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

June began and ended with a hot spell. The last week of the month was very rainy—almost 4 inches being recorded in a few days. July, in contrast was the driest on record in the Ithaca area—less than an inch of rain being recorded, although some parts of the Region had normal amounts.

This being the report of the breeding season, some remarks on breeding bird censuses seem in order. In Schuyler County, 109 species were found on June 30. The breeding bird census taken as usual the first week in June in Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary produced 59 species, one more than last year. Increases were noted in Eastern Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadees, Catbirds and Robins, decreases in Wood Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers and Rufous-sided Towhees. Again, three 25 mile run Fish and Wildlife censuses were taken. The Italy Hills to Branchport run (FG) had 53 species in contrast to 55 last year; the 53 included 8 new species, with 10 of last year's not found this year. An increase was noted in numbers of Catbirds, Starlings, Redwings, Grackles, Cowbirds, Goldfinches and Savannah Sparrows, a decrease in Crows and Warblers. The East Dryden run (SHS) produced 62 species, five more than last year, with an increase in Pheasants, Mourning Doves, Crows, Yellow Warblers, Meadowlarks, Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings and Field Sparrows; a decrease in Killdeer, Eastern Kingbirds, Tree Swallows, and Redwings. The Trumansburg run (DM) had 49 species, two less than last year. Pheasants, Killdeer, Chickadees, Robins, and Cowbirds showed an increase; Phoebe, House Wrens, Starlings, Yellow Warblers, Meadowlarks, Redwings, Indigo Buntings and Chipping Sparrows a decrease.

Mrs. Morris (Jamesine) Bardeen, compiler for many years for the Schuyler County Bird Club, is taking a well-deserved vacation from this responsibility. Jack Brubaker will be reporting for this Club in the future. We extend our deep appreciation to Mrs. Bardeen for her fine job over the past years.

Observers cited: WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jamesine Bardeen; JBr—Jack Brubaker; RG—Robert Giddings; AFG—Alfred and Florence Graham; FG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; JH—John Haugh; JHo—James Houck; WH—Wilfred Howard; CL—Charles Leck; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DBP—David B. Peakall; RS—Richard Simmers; MS—Mary Smith; SHS—Sally Spofford; BStr—Betty Strath; JW—Jayson Walker; MPW—Mary P. Welles; RW—Ruth Williams.

Area compilers: Jamesine Bardeen, Walter E. Benning, Frank Guthrie; Clayton Hardy, Jayson Walker, Mary P. Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Conn Hill—Connecticut Hill; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L—Seneca Lake; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; TC airport—Tompkins County Airport.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: scattered reports of successful nestings, better breeding success at MNWR with improved habitat. Double-crested Cormorant: (rare in summer) one Jun 2, one Jun 15–16 MNWR (WEB). Great Blue Heron: none at Elmira heronry where 25 nests in 1967; new small heronry discovered near Bennettsburg; 7 young in 3 nests, reported to be third year there (BStr); max at MNWR, 60 on Aug 15; nesting at Marengo Swamp down slightly from year ago. Green Heron: at least 100 at MNWR; all observers reported better numbers, more sightings this year. Cattle Egret: none reported. Common Egret: max four, Aug 15, decrease of recent years continues. Snowy Egret: one, Jun 2, MNWR (WEB). Black-crowned Night Heron: at MNWR numbers equal to last year; few Ithaca, Elmira. Least Bittern: numerous sightings of two or three birds MNWR all summer, reported "tame," and up to seven have been seen at a time.

Canada Goose: 107 raised MNWR, down from 125 in '67, 140 in '66; broods

smaller (CH). As for ducks, C. Hardy, Mgr. of MNWR reports the following numbers raised this year, the symbol in ( ) indicating increase(+) or decrease (-) over last year. (See Oct. '67 Kingbird for exact figures). Mallard 704 (+); Black Duck 37 (-); Gadwall 570 (+); Baldpate 0 (-); Pintail 11 (-); Green-winged Teal 8 (-); Blue-winged Teal 660 (+); Shoveler 22 (+); Wood Duck 480 (-); Redhead 154 (+); Ruddy Duck 6 (+); Hooded Merganser 11 (+); the big increase was in Mallards, and Blue-winged Teal, and Redheads, the noticeable decrease was in Black Ducks, Widgeon, and Wood Ducks.

A single male Lesser Scaup and a male Bufflehead summered at Montezuma, for some unexplained reason.

Elsewhere, a brood of 12 Hooded Mergansers was spotted near the Tompkins County airport (JH,CL). At SWS, Mallard broods, though small, numbered 20 this year, Wood Ducks raised 10 broods.

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: Marengo swamp nesting was unsuccessful this year. Usually seen in summer only in northern parts of our Region, a sighting Jul 23 near Lansing is of interest (M.Hundley). Goshawk: four successful nestings within 50 miles of Ithaca (not all within Region). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one sighting only, Jul 22, SWS. Cooper's Hawk: two regional sightings: one Jul 18 near Jacksonville (SHS), one Aug 13 Texas Hollow (JBr). Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: missing from all former stations. Broad-winged Hawk: several regional nestings, Conn Hill, Elmira. Bald Eagle: one imm Jul 28 (JW); one imm Aug 8-14 MNWR (CH). Marsh Hawk: two sightings near Dryden, Jul 13, 21 (DBP); one at MNWR Jun 5. Drop in last five years is extremely distressing—to point where single sightings are noteworthy. Sparrow Hawk: what had seemed to be a decrease in breeding population a few years ago appears to be halted, as birds were present in most old locations. Bobwhites reported in a few localities, the survivors of releases several years ago. Ring-necked Pheasant: plentiful in Keuka area (FG). Virginia Rail: sightings at MNWR, and also near TC airport. Sora: Several successful nestings near TC airport (JH). Common Gallinule: 30 broods (est.) MNWR, 180 young seen, contrasted with 8 broods last year. Coot: 200 broods contrasted with 12 last year. In both these last species, habitat improvement probably not only aided production, but increased possible sightings.

Unless otherwise stated, shorebird reports from MNWR are those of WEB. Semipalmated Plover: last spring date MNWR Jun 9, first southward migrant Jul 21. Killdeer: 62 max Jul 21 MNWR; 90 max Aug 13 Cay L Inlet (CL). Blackbellied Plover: 20 Jun 5 MNWR, last spring date. Common Snipe: 17 max MNWR Jul 14; evidence of local nesting again in Ithaca area (young out of nest). Whimbrel: one Jul 25, Sen L (BStr)—rare. Upland Plover: apparently absent this year from what had been several new localities around Ithaca in last few years, but at Elmira, reported as quite plentiful near Horseheads Industrial Center—ten Jul 3 (WH), 13 Jul 8 (MPW) 11 Jul 15 (MPW); also noted other places near Elmira. Greater Yellowlegs: one Jul 13 MNWR and one Jul 14 Ithaca, Cay Inlet (CL) first dates. Lesser Yellowlegs: 13 Jul 6 MNWR, one Jul 3 Cay Inlet, somewhat early dates. Pectoral Sandpiper: 18 max Jul 21 MNWR. White-rumped Sandpiper: seven Jun 7 MNWR, last spring date. Baird's Sandpiper. one only, Aug 12 Cay L Inlet (CL). Short-billed Dowitcher: 20 Jun 5 MNWR last spring date; one Jul 7 Cay L Inlet (CL) first fall. Stilt Sandpiper: seven max Jul 21 MNWR. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 250 max Jul 21. Hudsonian Godwit: four Jul 13 MNWR, only record. Wilson's Phalarope: one Jun 7 MNWR last spring date, one Jul 13 & 17, only fall reports. Northern Phalarope: one female Jun 2 Chemung Flats, Carl & Shirley Wood, also MS, possible second bird; late and rare.

Bonaparte's Gull: one adult Aug 4 Cay L Inlet, first fall (RW). Common Tern: few at MNWR, scattered nesting pairs n. end Cay L, one Jul 20 Elmira, first summer record there (WH). Caspian Tern: two Jun 30 (WEB) and one Aug 15



MNWR only records in period. Black Tern: Hardy reported good nesting success MNWR, all gone by late Aug. Mourning Dove: abundant everywhere except Keuka. Cuckoos: scarce, no nests reported. Screech Owl: few reports. Long-eared Owl: often no known nestings, brood raised near Interlaken this year (DM). Short-eared Owl: one Jul 4 Keuka (*vide* FG), very rare in summer; a report that should have been in last issue is that of one egg in nest near King Ferry, location of last winter's large roost, egg disappeared, last date Owl seen Aug 12. Saw-whet Owl: heard every night in June by Stasches near their home in Caton.

COATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: scarce everywhere; one successful nest s.w. Dryden, one failed Etna. Yellow-shafted Flicker: abundant everywhere. Red-bellied Woodpecker: increase noted at Keuka; a nest at RFD 3 Horseheads, home of Mrs. Walter Wood, new location for Elmira area; no nests reported in Ithaca area. Red-headed Woodpecker: successful nest near Jacksonville in June; young out of nest at George Jr. Republic, Freeville, where noted last several years; absent from Ithaca Golf Course location this year. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: either this species is increasing as a breeder in Region 3, or better observations being made; several reports during summer, including one most of July at Peakall home e. of Dryden (el. 1400).

Eastern Kingbird: certainly fewer along roads on fences and wires than last year. Around Montour Falls, all expected species of flycatchers seemed in normal numbers (JB). Other observers did not comment. An Olive-sided Flycatcher Jun 1 Keuka was 10th record of species in 22 years (FG). Tree Swallow: seems on decrease last few years. Bank Swallow: several thriving colonies, one near Dryden just off Route 13; the Myers Pt colony which earlier seemed deserted was suddenly teeming—150 nests; while nesting was almost finished Jul 23, some young still in nest Aug 5 (DM); 84 nests in Brooktondale colony (CL); 81 nests, Benton Twnshp, Yates Co, up from 70 in '67 (WEB). Cliff Swallow: nesting greatly reduced at Sweetland Farm near Dryden; two nests on barn on Turkey Hill Rd. (new location) (RG). Purple Martin: absent from most houses of previous years, except a few at n. end Cay L, west side. Blue Jay: obvious that nesting was very successful everywhere. Tufted Titmouse: interesting to note this former southern species now appearing even at high elevations in Region: noted at Arnot Forest (el. 1600) and Hendershot Gulf (JBr). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 pairs noted in Caroline area in Jul (RS) and one Conn Hill (JBr). Long-billed Marsh Wren: one Jul 27 Horseheads dump was first record in that area for this year, very scarce everywhere. Short-billed Marsh Wren: almost no sightings at MNWR. Mockingbird: finally and at long last, positive breeding record of the species at Ithaca (in previous years, young have been seen being fed, out of nest) three nests located, west hill area, verified DM; nests also located again at Elmira. Brown Thrasher: many new nesting and feeding areas reported. Why has this species increased this year? Eastern Bluebird: no increase noted, no new localities. Golden-crowned Kinglet: family, evidence of breeding success, Caroline area early July (RS).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one Jun 8 Conn Hill (CL), no other records to suggest any possibility of breeding. Red-eyed Vireo: seven on breeding census at SWS.

It seems that lack of field work accounts for some of the scarcity of breeding warblers reports. However, Blue-winged, Nashville, Magnolia, Myrtle and Prairie were found on Conn Hill (BStr), Prairie again in several Elmira locations (see Field Note). Yellowthroat and Yellow Warbler both reported down at Keuka, Elmira and Geneva. No reports of breeding Mourning Warblers this year, except one male, full song, Michigan Hollow Jun 1 (CL).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: somewhat less abundant this year than last. E. Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird and Common Grackle extremely common. Orchard Oriole: pair again on Campbell Ave., West Hill, bred; seen at Keuka,



early Jun, only 2nd record there. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; not so many reports as usual of families and immatures at end of breeding season, some years very conspicuous. American Goldfinch: very abundant. Grasshopper Sparrow: called plentiful at Elmira, few reports elsewhere. Henslow's Sparrow: scarcer everywhere than in past years.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Temperatures averaged close to normal all summer with few really hot days. June brought twice the normal precipitation, some rain falling almost every day from June 10 to July 6. But July, on average, was almost as dry as June was wet.

Again the breeding bird surveys run for the Fish and Wildlife Service provided much of the significant data collected during the summer. Species by species composite results of five of the individual surveys are provided below in the following format: (total individuals—number of surveys recording the species). Three of these five surveys were run June 15, one June 23 and one June 30. At least two other survey routes were run in the Region but species by species totals were not available from them.

Counts of Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos while canoeing down the Chenango River provide an interesting, although far from surprising, contrast with the breeding bird survey results. The higher numbers along the river clearly result from the high proportion of suitable habitat as compared to the random sampling of habitats on the surveys. Both techniques provide valuable information, but they should not be confused.

Summering Myrtle Warblers and White-throated Sparrows were reported in increased numbers, the former with evidence suggesting breeding. Unprecedented summer time northerners were a Cape May and a Bay-breasted Warbler. Other more normal northerners were Golden-crowned Kinglets, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Common Mergansers. A few Mockingbirds and an increased number of Turkey Vultures represented the south. Rarities included a Long-eared Owl and a Short-billed Marsh Wren. Screech Owls continue to increase.

Abbreviations used: BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; Bing—Binghamton; CC—Chocanut Center; Chen—Chenango; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir.

Observers' initials: LB—L. Bemont; GC—G. Corderman; WC—W. Corderman; MC—M. Cubberly; A,MD—A. & M. Davis; C,JD—C. & J. Davis; CG—C. Gerould; CGo—C. Gottschall; CH—C. Howard; VH—V. Hudson; EK—E. Kirch; PK—P. Kalka; ML—M. Lynch; D,ML—D. & M. Lynch; HM—H. Marsi; JN—J. New; RP—R. Pantle; R,MS—R. & M. Sheffield; AS—A. Stratton; E,NW—E. & N. Washburn; MW—M. White; R,SW—R. & S. White; BW—B. Williams; RW—R. Williams; S,JW—S. & J. Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: four sightings on Pep Res during Jun and Jul, all in imm plumage (MC). Pied-billed Grebe: Jul 20 Owego (J. Shuler), the only summer record. Great Blue Heron: (1-1); 22 nests, approx. two young per nest, at Berkshire (ML); a heronry near Brisben occupied, but no count (S. + H. Hayes); "at least one" active nest at Andes (MC); Colchester and MacDonough heronries not visited; numerous scattered reports. Green Heron: (1-1). Canada Goose: (2-1), Oxford BBS (HM,CGo) Jun 15; also reported at Berkshire and Owego. Mallard: (1-1). Blue-winged Teal: two Jun 15 Brisben (R,MS); adult with six young at Spencer Marsh during Jun (RW). Wood Duck: quite a few broods re-

ported in Jun and Jul. Common Merganser: "a few all period" Pep Res (MC) as for the last few years.

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: (1-1) Jun 15 Corbettsville BBS (PK); six in one group Jun 22 Pep Res (MC)—"more common than usual"; also reported in Chen Co, Berkshire, Deposit, CC, and Chen Forks. Goshawk: young still in nest at Deposit Jun 10—young not seen but both adults in area Jun 30 (S,JW); Jun 3, 5 and 6 near Oneonta (JN). Cooper's Hawk: three summer reports. Red-tailed Hawk: (3-1). Red-shouldered Hawk: a nesting pair at Candor (D. Weber), but no other summer records. Broad-winged Hawk: (3-1); at least ten reports—apparently our most common *buteo* this summer. Bald Eagle: an adult Jun 25 Deposit (S,JW); an adult Jul 22, 28 and Aug 4 Pep Res (MC); one at East Homer Aug 2 (F. Mules). Marsh Hawk: Jul 28 Berkshire (D,ML), the only summer report. Osprey: Jul 29 Berkshire (D,ML), almost never reported from the Region during the summer. Sparrow Hawk: (11-4). Ruffed Grouse: (1-1). Bobwhite: (3-2). Ring-necked Pheasant: (5-2). Turkey: reported from Berkshire during period (D,ML). Killdeer: (22-3). Am. Woodcock: (9-1). Common Snipe: Jul 13 Sherburne (R,SW); infrequently reported in summer although almost certainly a regular breeder in the Region. Spotted Sandpiper: (2-2); Jul 6, 23 counted while canoeing from Norwich to Oxford (R,MS). Solitary Sandpiper: Jul 19, Norwich (R,SW). Black Tern: Jul 7 Owego (B. Hewlett, MW,CG); also an imm Aug 8, Owego. Rock Dove: (26-3). Mourning Dove: (12-3). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (4-2). Black-billed Cuckoo: (10-4). Barn Owl: Aug 3 Oxford (AS). Screech Owl: heard fairly regularly at CC (R,MS), Chen Forks (A,MD) and Vestal (E,NW) in late Jul and the first half of Aug; also reported from Owego. Horned Owl: hunger call of young "heard every night," Andes (MC). Barred Owl: observed several times during period just south of Bing, as for the past year (GC,WC,EK); an adult with two young in Jun at Tioga Center (RW,BW). Long-eared Owl: tape recording made of bird that called frequently from roof of house and utility poles in yard most of summer in semi-rural surroundings near Hinman's Corners north of Bing (R. Saunders).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Chimney Swift: (48-4); flock of about 200 over Bing Jul 23 (R,MS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: not many reports. Belted Kingfisher: (3-1). Yellow-shafted Flicker: (64-4). Pileated Woodpecker: (1-1). Red-headed Woodpecker: one Jul 19 Sherburne (R,SW); one Aug 1 Nichols (VH); Aug 8, Hartwick Seminary at Oneonta (JN). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (2-2); two pairs Tioga Center (RW,MW). Hairy Woodpecker: (3-3). Downy Woodpecker: (12-5). Eastern Kingbird: (16-4). Great Crested Flycatcher: (15-5). Eastern Phoebe: (42-5). Traill's Flycatcher: (10-2); six other records, all in Broome and Tioga Cos. Least Flycatcher: (35-5). Eastern Wood Pewee: (20-5). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Jun 25 Berkshire (D,ML). Tree Swallow: (22-4); 29 pair nesting at Greene (C,JD) and 12 pair at Andes (MC). Bank Swallow: (3-2). Barn Swallow: (85-4). Cliff Swallow: "a nice increase, we had 40 pair," Greene (C,JD). Purple Martin: (1-1).

Blue Jay: (67-5). Common Crow: (114-5). Black-capped Chickadee: (39-5). White-breasted Nuthatch: (9-3). Red-breasted Nuthatch: (2-2); eight Jul 4, Pharsalia (R,SW), adults and family. Brown Creeper: (4-2). House Wren: (38-5); "very plentiful—about 20 pair," Greene (C,JD); 16 pair, Andes (MC). Winter Wren: one singing at Andes Jun 11 (MC), but not since or anywhere else. Carolina Wren: a pair "nested" at Owego (MW), no details; present for about a week in late Jul at Vestal (M. Kiley). Long-billed Marsh Wren: nine Jul 13, Sherburne (R,SW), "more than usual." Short-billed Marsh Wren: from Jul 5 to the end of the period, singing incessantly, day and night, for the first two weeks, at Candor (RP)—in a weedy field with no apparent damp area, but about 200 feet from a pond—observed many times from within 15 feet—streaked crown, buffy underparts and tail nearly

touching head while singing noted—write up on file. Mockingbird: (1-1), Lisle BBS (RP); last report at Oxford Jun 1 (AS); three young and two adults Jun 1 (R,MS); Jun 13 to end of period, Nichols (VH). Catbird: (59-5). Brown Thrasher: (17-5). Robin: (375-5). Wood Thrush: (77-5). Hermit Thrush: (8-4); in Candor area in good numbers on higher hills—June 21 singing in at least five locations—one nest, on ground in patch of low huckleberry bushes, at about 1600 foot elevation (D. Weber). Swainson's Thrush: heard singing Jun 9 and Jul 4 and 21 at Pharsalia (R,SW). Veery: (73-5). Eastern Bluebird: (2-2). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Jul 24 Owego (MW,CG). Golden-crowned Kinglet: singing at Pharsalia Jul 4 and 21 (R,SW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Aug 11 Chen Forks (A,MD), very early. Cedar Waxwing: (22-4). Starling: (669-5).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: (7-2); ten Jul 6 along Chen R, Norwich to Oxford (R,MS). Solitary Vireo: (1-1), Coventryville BBS (LB). Red-eyed Vireo: (57-5). Warbling Vireo: (11-4); along Chen R, 23 Jun 29 Oxford to Brisben and 15 Jul 6 Norwich to Oxford (R,MS).

Warblers: Black-and-white: (10-4). Golden-winged: (2-1); spotty distribution in Broome and Tioga Counties, but not uncommon. Brewster's: Jun 10 Oneonta (JN). Blue-winged: (1-1), Corbetsville BBS (PK); more reports than in recent years. Yellow: (57-5); along Chen R, 13 Jun 29 Oxford to Brisben and 12 Jul 6 Norwich to Oxford. Magnolia: (1-1), Oxford BBS (HM,CGO). **CAPE MAY:** (1-1), McDonough BBS (CH). Black-throated Blue: (1-1), Jun 30 Coventryville BBS (LB); no others. Myrtle: (1-1), Jun 15 Oxford BBS (HM,CGO); Jun 23 Windsor one catching "huge fat green worms and carrying them off—would sing with bill full" (R,MS); two heard at Pharsalia Jul 4 (R,SW); with two other reports, the most ever during the summer. Black-throated Green: (10-4); 24 singing at Pharsalia Jul 4 (R,SW). Blackburnian: (1-1), Coventryville BBS; three heard and seen at Pharsalia Jul 4. Chestnut-sided: (42-5). **BAY-BREASTED:** (1-1), McDonough BBS (CH). Blackpoll: Jun 1 Whitney Pt, "lots all over" (M. Sheffield), the last of the spring migrants. Prairie: at Vestal Center almost daily through Jun 16, then less frequently until Jul 15—feeding young Jul 5 (E,NW). Ovenbird: (27-4); some observers felt numbers were down. Northern Waterthrush: (1-1); three other reports. Louisiana Waterthrush: (1-1); two other reports. Mourning Warbler: one Jun 9 and two Jul 4 Pharsalia (R,SW); Jun 30 Nichols (VH). Yellowthroat: (96-5). Yellow-breasted Chat: (1-1), Corbetsville BBS (PK), the only report all summer. Wilson's Warbler: Aug 8 Nichols (VH), early. Canada Warbler: (2-2). American Redstart: (32-4).

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** House Sparrow: (132-4), total inadvertently omitted from the fifth BBS. Bobolink: (102-5). Eastern Meadowlark: (146-5). Red-winged Blackbird: (835-5). Baltimore Oriole: (40-4). Common Grackle: (141-5). Brown-headed Cowbird: (76-5). Scarlet Tanager: (37-5). Cardinal: (12-3). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (28-5). Indigo Bunting: (31-5). Purple Finch: (16-4). American Goldfinch: (131-5). Rufous-sided Towhee: Aug 14, a pair with one chick still in the nest at Deposit (S,JW). Savannah Sparrow: (40-5). Grasshopper Sparrow: (13-3). Henslow's Sparrow: Vestal Center BBS (E,NW) and six other reports. Vesper Sparrow: (11-3). Slate-colored Junco: (9-3); a report from Tioga Co of eight birds singing and "positive nesting" of two pairs (see Field Note); ten Jul 4 and six Jul 21 seen at Pharsalia (R,SW); found nesting at Scott, Cortland Co, Jun 10 (J. Osadchey, J. A. Gustafson); several other reports. Chipping Sparrow: (100-5). Field Sparrow: (101-5). White-throated Sparrow: (25-3); one singing from a Chen R island above Brisben Jun 29 (R,MS); 14 Jul 4 and ten Jul 21 at Pharsalia (R,SW); three or more at Colesville, Broome Co, Jul 7 (LB). Swamp Sparrow: (5-2). Song Sparrow: (244-5).

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

Early June became quickly hot and humid, hurrying along those tardy migrants that should have come in the last third of May. The hot—and wet—weather persisted to the last third of June; all marshes were brimming; summer streams continued with virtually vernal spate, and greenery and mosquitoes were luxuriant. In the last ten days of June, however, a spell of persistent (eight and a half days) of cold, rainy, windy, weather resulted in documented brood loss of swallows and undoubtedly wreaked havoc on many other species with young recently hatched in this chill period. Of interest and perhaps secondary to widespread breeding failure in the cold period is that many broods of recently fledged birds were noted in the latter two-thirds of August and even early September, when normally all breeding activity but that of Cedar Waxwing and Goldfinch is over.

July was again typically hot, much less wet in the latter half. However, the legacy of water precluded any extensive development of shorebird habitat at local lakes, so July and August shorebirding was poor in quality and low in numbers. The single exception, the rainpools and residual marsh at the Park Street dump along Ley Creek in Syracuse, will be a memory only in the coming years as the landfill there is annihilating the marsh.

Explorations for breeding birds were undertaken in multiple areas of the Tug Hill Plateau and in the southern highlands, particularly Tully, Fabius, and Pompey Townships in southeastern Onondaga County. Abundant data from such birding forays is presented in the warblers section of the report. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Surveys (total of seven taken) also provide immediate and valuable counts of breeding birds of the Region; much material from these has been used in this report.

Rarities for the season include Snowy Egret, breeding Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Whimbrel, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, breeding Barn Owl, and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker.

Positives include: 1) abundant Mallard and Blue-winged Teal production; 2) many rail and Common Gallinule broods evident with the rejuvenation of the area's marshes; 3) increase in woodpeckers, nuthatches, and Brown Creeper, almost certainly secondary to the abundant food supply the many dying elms provide; 4) many encouraging counts on wood warblers, particularly so after the dismal spring showing (not true of Parula or the Seiurus group); 5) an Eastern Goldfinch population explosion; 6) a rise in breeding stations for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

Negatives: 1) the almost complete absence of white herons and Black-crowned Night Heron; 2) low brood tallies on Black Duck; 3) the reduced shorebird migration—in both variety and numbers; 4) the sharp drop in Traill's and Least Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewee; 5) a weatherkill of young swallows (q.v.) and the continuing loss of Cliff Swallow colonies; 6) the now nearly complete loss of several formerly regular though not common species—Screech Owl, Whip-poor-will, Hooded Warbler.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; F&WBBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 25-mile breeding bird survey—Alder Creek Jun 24, Cicero Center Jul 1, Kasoag Jul 3, N Victory Jun 13, N Wilmurt Jun 19, Oneida Jun 20; FHBSP—Fair Haven Beach State Park; FR—Fox Ridge sugar beet settling impoundments S of Howland's Island; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; HVGMA—Happy Valley Game Management Area near Parish; LJGMA—Littlejohn Game Management Area near Redfield; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; Skan—Skaneateles; southern highlands—Allegheny Plateau sector of Onon, Madison, Oneida and Herkimer Co; sub-THP—area E of Rt 81, N of Rt 49, and S of Rt 13; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.



Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; VB—V. Billings; GLC—G. L. Church ;EJF—E. J. Fisk; FLF—F. LaFrance; KGH—K. G. Hanson; SM—S. Morgan; BCSP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; TMR—T. M. Riley; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; CGS—C. G. Spies; RJS—R. J. Sutliff.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: single Salmon R Reservoir (FLF) and two SP (RJS) both Jun 8; also four Jul 10, probably breeders, N Herkimer Co (KGH). Great Blue Heron: approximately 24 occupied nests at Scott Swamp near Phoenix, but progeny production not determinable (SM,MSR); 18 active nests, 25 young, Jul 2 Cross L near Baldwinsville (D.B. Peakall); four active nests at Old Fly, Pompey Twp in Onon Co (FLF); four active nests Morrisville Swamp (GLC). Green Heron: roost counts include 35 Aug 13 Horseshoe Island in Oneida R (SM,MSR) and 14 Jul 24 Onon L (JWP). Only white heron for summer is a Snowy Egret at SP Aug 5-7 (R. Goodwin), first local record in three years. Black-crowned Night Heron: only report, two Jun 2 HIGMA (RJS)—very scarce. Least Bittern: two new locations—marshes at Utica (VB) and E Syr (FLF).

Mallard: with the wet spring, Jun rains, and rejuvenation of marshes, many successful duck broods noted, with many Mallard broods S of Syr, HIGMA and FR, Old Fly, and Scott and Clay Swamps; flocking by late Jul—200 Jul 23 FR (MSR), 118 Aug 11 Old Fly (FLF). Black Duck: scarce thru summer, few broods noted; max 60 flying birds Jul 28 FR. Gadwall: two broods (five and six) Jun 1 HIGMA (G. Smith) and a female with six young FR Jul 23 (MSR). Green-winged Teal: three-four noted regularly at FR and HIGMA (mob) and Old Fly; arr (P) Jul 9 Onon L; max 65 Jul 28 FR. Shoveler: regular in small numbers (two-five) FR; two Jul 30 Onon L (FGS) are either wanderers or early migrants. Redhead: regular at FR, probably spill-over from HIGMA birds. Ruddy Duck: two-three per day FR Jul 28-Aug 10—? summering birds, nearby breeders, early migrants?

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: sighted several times N of Cato (*vide* B. Burtt), and one HVGMA in Jun (L. Chamberlaine)—both areas from which there have been occasional sightings heretofore. Sharp-shinned Hawk: none in entire summer, even in Adirondacks. Cooper's Hawk: one adult with one young in SE Onon Co Jul 15-16 (RJS,FLF); one other, an adult, Jul 4 in N Oneida Co (CGS). Red-tailed Hawk: the apparently stable Buteo locally—one-four per day with majority around HIGMA and S and extreme N Onon Co (mob). Red-shouldered Hawk: singles in SE Onon Co and three THP sightings, one of an adult with imm; no records from Seneca R floodplain woodlots where formerly a common raptor. Broad-winged Hawk: seven sightings, all singles, in THP and sub-THP. Bald Eagle: adult flying over farm at Wampsville Aug 18 (B&SP, E. VanDresar), only report. Marsh Hawk: pair seen repeatedly along Mohawk R marshes (DWA, M. Stooks); singles only at HIGMA (TMR), Canastota (B&SP), near Williamstown (MSR), and near Pompey (FLF); unreported from Scott and Clay Swamps and from the open farm country along the S shore of Oneida L, all former breeding sites. Osprey: nesting in N Herkimer Co with at least two young in nest (EJF)—first recent Regional nesting record; one at FR Jun 2 (FLF,RJS) probably a late migrant. Sparrow Hawk: repeated sightings at approximately 40 sites with about six broods reported, primarily at periphery of Syr and S of Syr (mob).

Virginia Rail: adult with three young TRGMA Jul 7 (FGS). Sora: somewhat better numbers—multiple sightings of one-three per day, max three Jun 10 Lewis Pt Rd, Lenox Twp in Madison Co (DWA). Common Gallinule: two dozen including many young in Utica marsh late Jun (VB). Am. Woodcock: broods noted LJCMA and Pompey. Upland Plover: singles and pairs seen repeatedly in N Oneida Co (mob); max 56 Aug 3 Syr Airport (FGS).

Arrival dates and peak numbers for fall migrant shorebirds are summarized in the table below. The scarcity of Ruddy Turnstone, Greater Yellowlegs, and Pectoral Sandpiper is emphasized by the abundant Lesser Yellowlegs and the above average numbers of Stilt Sandpiper and Dowitcher.



	Arrival	Peak
Semipalmated Plover	Jul 13, 1, Onon L	27, Aug 10-15, Onon L
Killdeer		95, Jul 31, Syr
Golden Plover	Aug 15, 1, Park St dump	
Black-bellied Plover	Aug 6, 1, Onon L	3, Aug 10-13, Onon L
Ruddy Turnstone	Jul 28, 1, Onon L	13, Aug 4, SP
Spotted Sandpiper	Jul 2, 2, Onon L	40, Jul 28, FR-HIGMA
Solitary Sandpiper	Jul 10, 1, HIGMA	5, Aug 13-15, Syr
Greater Yellowlegs	Jul 6, 2, Syr	15, Jul 18, Onon L
Lesser Yellowlegs	Jul 2, 16, Onon L	265, Aug 11, Syr
Knot	Jul 28, 1, HIGMA	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Jul 14, 1, Syr	20, Aug 2-10, Syr
White-rumped Sandpiper	Aug 11, 1, Park St dump	4, Aug 12, Onon L
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug 14, 2, Syr	
Least Sandpiper	Jul 4, 1, Onon L	60, Jul 18, Onon L
Short-billed Dowitcher	Jul 6, 6, Onon L	11, Jul 23, FR
Stilt Sandpiper	Jul 13, 1, Syr	7, Aug 10, Syr
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Jul 14, 1, Syr	450, Aug 1-10, Park St dump
Sanderling	Jul 18, 1, Onon L	60, Jul 28, FHBSP, and Aug 4, SP
Wilson's Phalarope	Jul 4-5, ad female, Onon L	1, Aug 8-14, Syr 2, Aug 10, FR

Whimbrel: one Aug 5-6 SP inlet (R. Goodwin) the only fall record to date; becoming increasingly uncommon. Ruff: single male Jul 25-26 Onon L (D.B. Peakall, JWP) is only report—no breeding-plumage males seen.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Aug 3 (MSR), max 70 Aug 4 (FLF,RJS), both SP. Black Tern: N Syr colony successful with 15+ pairs, but in danger of oblivion from expanding shopping center; nesting farther east in Region—Utica marsh (VB); max 70 E end of Oneida L Aug 13 (DWA). Mourning Dove: many young widely reported; especially heavy concentration in HIGMA and FR (28 Jun 13), Syr Airport, and N Cayuga and N Onon Co (30 Jun 23). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 17 individuals, primarily in Jun and Jul, from 18 observers. Black-billed Cuckoo: 28 individuals, also from 18 observers, a slight increase from last year.

Barn Owl: Syr pair reared at least one young (RJS, L. Bemont). Screech Owl: seven for entire summer—reduced calling, or a real population drop? Great Horned Owl: successful nestings at Utica (two, *fide* VB), Syr (one); reported regularly at Pompey (FLF), Skan (TMR). Barred Owl: pair with one young near Labrador Pond near Tully (FLF,RJS)—a new breeding site. Saw-whet Owl: dazed, chocolate-plumaged imm found at Syr Jul 9 (*fide* B. Burt), probably a locally-reared bird; only Adirondack record, dead adult Jul 6 near McKeever, Herkimer Co (CGS).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: max four Boonville (KGH); extremely scarce otherwise and many sites near Syr occupied five years ago are now without them. Common Nighthawk: max eight per evening (low) at Syr; also reported Utica, Ilion, Oneida, Rome; still none at non-urban sites. Chimney Swift: two-20 per day, primarily from Syr, Utica, and Oneida; 28 per day in early Jul around Oneida L and in N Oneida Co (CGS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one-four per day with the higher numbers from THP and N Herkimer Co.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: ten-14 per day as summer max. Pileated Woodpecker: confirmed nesting at Carpenter Pond near Pompey (FLF); new sites in S Syr, near N Victory, in Victory Twp in Cayuga Co, at Salmon R Reservoir, in Cheese Factory Gulf in Pompey Twp, and on Woodmancy Rd near Tully—increasing as woodlots mature and undoubtedly helped by large food supply created by dying elm stands. Red-bellied Woodpecker: pair with one young Camillus Aug 1 (FGS); newly re-

ported at Gully Rd near Skan (TMR)—? expansion from the colony at N end of Otisco L? Red-headed Woodpecker: individuals located in three segments of Region—open woodlots and pastures around Oneida (DWA, A. Carter), oak-hickory stands along L Ontario (SM,MRS), and farmed areas of the Onon escarpment and valleys to the south—but very scarce in majority of L Ontario lowlands; pair with young in nest Stittville, Oneida Co Aug 17 (A. Steinbaker). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: definite breeding Tully (max nine Jul 10, JWP) and THP; numerous reports from sub-THP sites, wooded areas around Pompey and Fabius (FLF) and Eaton (GLC). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: only summer record adult female in spruce swamp slashings at Old Forge Jun 16 (DWA, P. Paquette, FGS). Downy Woodpecker: down by 75% on F&WBBSs by JWP, this in spite of the increase in local food supply—this is a species to be watched.

Eastern Kingbird: first migrants Jul 11 THP; max 32 Aug 1 THP and SSSP combined (FGS). Great Crested Flycatcher: three-eight per day thru Jun and Jul, up slightly. Eastern Phoebe: still scarce thru majority of area but better numbers (11–15 per day) from N Oneida Co (SM) and central Herkimer Co (KGH). Traill's Flycatcher: summer max five "webeo" and nine "fitzbew" (MSR); actually quite scarce as five years ago one could hear 20–30 per day, particularly "fitzbews," without trying. Least Flycatcher: max 20 THP Jun 15; lesser counts (one-ten per day) in woodlots around Syr, Tully, and Pompey. Eastern Wood Pewee: incredibly scarce as breeder this summer—max a mere ten (combined tally) from CV and Otisco Jun 9 (MSR); most observers had only one-six per day. Olive-sided Flycatcher: returned to LJGMA but breeding success unknown; one-three per day in N Herkimer Co; also noted Jun 27 at Hillsboro, Oneida Co (CGS,SM) in the sub-THP where it is quite rare.

Tree Swallow: small concentrations (23–50 per day) at Clay Swamp, SP, HIGMA, Old Fly, S shore of Oneida L; the recent Martin house craze seems to be of some help to Tree Swallows (FLF) but still many former backyard sites are deserted this year; a cold weather kill of young Tree Swallows noted at Big Moose L (EJF). Bank Swallow: active colonies noted at Thendara in Herkimer Co—60 holes—and near Constantia—46 (CGS); a new small colony—30—at Pompey (FLF); 500+ holes in Clay (MSR); flocking first noted FR, with 250 birds Jul 23 (MSR). Barn Swallow: abundantly and widely noted with counts of 20–40 per day; many successful nestings reported; fate of Adirondacks broods unknown but apparently no late Jun cold weather kill as with Tree Swallows (EJF). Cliff Swallow: unreported in southern highlands where formerly there were five small (four-ten pair) colonies; in N Oneida Co 97 nests in 12 colonies and SE and E of Oneida L 35 nests in five colonies (both CGS). Purple Martin: best tally is 250 Aug 4 Rainbow Shores, Oswego Co (FLF).

White-breasted Nuthatch: summer counts of six-eight per day; max 17 Jul 7 near Big Moose (MSR); in Syr area, numbers up also—undoubtedly benefitting from the dying elm condition. Red-breasted Nuthatch: new breeding site Shackham Rd in Fabius Twp (FLF,JWP,RJS); also two new THP sites—Otto Mills and Redfield, and at HVGMA in sub-THP (FLF,RJS)—all in pine-spruce plantations. Brown Creeper: nine in a mile Jun 21 Cicero Swamp (MSR) where formerly only one-two per day. House Wren: some increase—11–12 per F&WBBS; 25 in 40 mi N Onon Co Jun 25 (CGS); 25 HIGMA Jul 10 (FLF). Winter Wren: summer max seven LJGMA Jun 20 (FGS). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 14–22 per day Scott Swamp (JWP), 15 Clay Swamp Jun 25 (CGS), and ten Utica marsh (VB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: small colonies at Toad Harbor Rd near W Monroe (CGS) and Utica marsh (VB) with three and two singing birds respectively; apparently absent from L Ontario shore marshes this year—high water? Mockingbird: one Jun 8 SP dunes (FLF,RJS), a new location, probably a post-nesting stray. Catbird: summer max 32 Clay-to-Lysander survey Jun 25 (SM), 30 HIGMA Jul 10 (FLF), 32 THP-SSSP

Aug 1 (FGS). Brown Thrasher: one-three per day regularly in THP and Ohio Twp in Herkimer Co in suitable brushy habitat.

Robin: abundant and an impressive number of broods; 105 individuals on Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH); early flocking Aug 1 with 250+ noted in THP (FGS). Hermit Thrush: only one-13 per day thru summer but with numerous locations in Pompey-Apulia area, and especially Vienna-Boonville-Forestport area with 13 Jul 4 (SM). Swainson's Thrush: one-five per day in THP of E Oswego Co; also one near Cleveland (where rare breeder) Jun 27 (FGS); 15 on Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH). Veery: abundant THP and sub-THP with 15-35 per day; 31 Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH); lesser numbers Pompey, Tully, CV. Eastern Bluebird: small numbers and families from farmed fringes of THP, mainly E Oswego and N Oneida Co; very scarce in Onon Co despite efforts to encourage them there.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: new locations Wampsville (B&SP) and Tully L (JWP). Golden-crowned Kinglet: adult feeding young Shackham Rd Aug 10-11 (JWP); one bird Cicero Swamp Jun 21 (MSR)—both notable as this species is rare away from the Adirondacks and the most boreal sectors of THP. Loggerhead Shrike: singles Apulia Station Jul 15 and Pompey Aug 11 (both FLF), and one Aug 8 Van Buren Twp in Onon Co (K. Beres)—the last two could be early migrants.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: four-seven per day in THP, usually confined to mature beech woods or maple-edged riverine areas; Finger Lakes' valleys and L Ontario lowland counts three-four per day (low). Solitary Vireo: one-four per day in THP; two HVGMA (CGS,SM). Red-eyed Vireo: high counts mostly from THP with ten-28 per day. Warbling Vireo: summer max 13 Clay-to-Lysander survey Jun 25 (CGS) and 28 (very high) S shore of Oneida L Jun 13 (MSR).

Warblers: Black-and-white: CV max two, scarce; summer max eight Big Moose Jun 1 and N Oneida Co Jul 4 (SM,MSR). Golden-winged: sighted at HVGMA Jun 27 but not where previously located; new location just S of Salmon R reservoir Jun 8 (RJS). Blue-winged: one with Brewster's mate feeding two young Blue-winged Aug 1 CV; also a Blue-winged feeding young Brewster's same area subsequently (FGS, JWP). Nashville: max five in Rome Sand Plains and adjacent Vienna Twp in Oneida Co in sub-THP; noted Shackham Rd where scarce but expected (RJS). Parula: very scarce—never more than two-four per day in Adirondacks. Yellow: 40+ Clay-to-Lysander survey Jun 25 (CGS), 45 HVGMA Jul 2 (RJS); first migrants Jul 7 N Syr (FGS). Magnolia: one-three per day in conifer plantations of Fabius Twp (JWP, FLF); eight-ten per day in E Oswego Co THP; 20+ Big Moose area Jun 1 (MSR); two fledglings being fed Jun 29 Constantia Twp in Oswego Co (CGS). Black-throated Blue: three-eight per day in E Oswego Co THP ;max 22 (very good!) Jun 29 Moose R Mt. trail near Thendara (KGH); unreported from southern highlands where most other local northern warblers have been noted. Myrtle: reported in Fabius Twp along Herlihy Rd (FLF) and at Highland Forest (W.F. Minor); at least two new sites in HVGMA Jun 27 and widely reported thru THP and sub-THP but only in conifer plantations (mob); we have yet to locate natural-site breeding Myrtle Warblers in the Oswego Co section of THP. Black-throated Green: max 18 Fabius Twp Jul 20 (JWP); THP counts only four-12 per day (low); one Whiskey Hollow near Baldwinsville Jun 23 (MSR) is the only one away from Adirondacks, THP, and southern highlands.

Cerulean Warbler: singing males Oneida R and Cold Spring at N end of Oneida L. both Jun 14 (MSR). Blackburnian: one Jun 9 Gully Rd near Skan (A. Hogsholm, MSR) may be a breeder; counts of four-12 per day from Redfield and Williamstown Twps in THP; five HVGMA Jun 27 in both natural hemlock stands and conifer plantations; seven-15 per day in Old Forge-Big Moose area—seemed scarce there as it is often one of the top five warblers. Chestnut-sided: common—six-17 per day in THP and sub-THP with most counts by foot travel rather than car censusing; 24 in N Oneida Co Jul 4 (CGS); 20-25 per day in post-lumbered areas Big Moose-Still-

water; 20 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS. Ovenbird: scarce—one-seven per day in THP; 32 by car survey (50+ mi) of Oneida L N shore woods Jun 29 (CGS,MSR); only one-four per day (scarce) in southern highlands (JWP,FLF). Northern Waterthrush: like Ovenbird, very scarce with one-four per day in both the swamps of the southern highlands (FLF,MSR) and the alder thickets of THP (FGS); first migrants Aug 2 N Syr. Louisiana Waterthrush: four Frankfort Gorge Jun 4 (VB) is a good summer tally; now scarce in gorges near Tully (JWP).

Mourning Warbler: THP max eight in three and a half miles Jun 20 (FGS)—probably will increase even further with the present lumbering of deciduous woods of Redfield Twp; numerous pairs noted around Tully, CV, Whiskey Hollow, Mohawk in Herkimer Co, and HVGMA. Yellowthroat: 74 on Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH); however, most observers thought this species reduced—50% reduction on two F&WBBSs (JWP), max count of seven near Pompey (FLF); also only 26 in 40-mi Clay-to-Lysander survey (CGS) and sub-THP max 16 (low) Jun 27 (CGS); however, 34 on Kasoag F&WBBS in THP (MSR). Yellow-breasted Chat: singles TRGMA Jul 1 (JWP) and HVGMA Jul 13 (FLF,RJS), making six known sites this spring and summer. Hooded Warbler: max eight Redfield Twp Jul 11 (DWA, P. Paquette); a new site on Otto Mills Rd also in Redfield Twp Jun 20 (FGS); *unreported* at other previously known sites. Canada Warbler: max 26 (very high) in one mile of walking in Cicero Swamp Jun 21 (MSR); THP max nine (low) in two miles Jun 20 Otto Mills Rd; high counts eight-12 per day in some other locales—N shore of Oneida L, Big Moose area—but most other counts two-six per day with particularly low counts in southern highlands of Fabius and Tully Twps. Am. Redstart: rather scarce as breeding bird in wooded areas at periphery of Syr and in southern highlands, with range of only one-eight per day (mob); sub-THP and THP numbers seem to be holding up—12-31 per day with max 47 LJGMA Jun 23 (FLF,RJS), but Adirondack counts are disturbingly low—five in nine miles of walking at Big Moose and 12 (very low) Old Forge to Stillwater; however, KGH had 23 on Alder Creek F&WBBS.

ICTERIDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 30 on Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH) and 32 on N Victory F&WBBS (JWP). Eastern Meadowlark: 12-36 per F&WBBS; scarce at Syr Airport, probably secondary to repeated mowing. Red-winged Blackbird: flocks of 10,000+ in late Jul in HIGMA-FR area. Brown-headed Cowbird: 30 per day at LJGMA Jun 15, the only icterid that can make a success of the wooded THP.

Scarlet Tanager: nine-16 per day N shore of Oneida L and sub-THP. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 Jul 10 N Herkimer Co (KGH) and Aug 10 Woodmancy Rd (JWP). Evening Grosbeak: two-ten per day thru summer at Old Forge and Big Moose (mob); no THP reports. Purple Finch: multiple pairs in ornamental spruces in and around Syr and in N Cayuga Co; occasional pairs in deciduous woods in L. Ontario lowlands; THP max ten (low) Jul 11 (FGS); 20 per day in Adirondacks (KGH,MSR). Pine Siskin: 24-30 per day in Old Forge-Big Moose Jun 1-16 (mob); none noted thereafter. Eastern Goldfinch: phenomenally abundant with 25-70 per day regularly reported panregionally; max 90 HIGMA Jul 10 (FLF).

Rufous-sided Towhee: 24 on Kasoag F&WBBS; other THP counts seven-16 per day. Grasshopper Sparrow: 21 sites; site max is six at Rome Air Force Base Jul 9 (CGS); Syr Airport numbers reduced by repeated mowings (three-four pairs). Henslow's Sparrow: 16 sites including four in Tully areas; site max six New London Jul 19 (B&SP); both this and Grasshopper Sparrow seem up from last year. Slate-colored Junco: 35 in Fabius Twp Jul 20 (JWP) is a good count; THP numbers less—eight-15 per day (mob). Chipping Sparrow: 48 along N shore of Oneida L Jun 29 and 50 in N Oneida Co Jul 4—definitely in good numbers this summer. Field Sparrow: max 98 (high) on Alder Creek F&WBBS. White-throated Sparrow: seven-14 per day in THP and five per day in sub-THP on one day; multiple sightings at Carpenter Pond and Old Fly. Lincoln's Sparrow: two along railroad track between



Big Moose and Stillwater Reservoir Jul 7 (MSR). Song Sparrow: 105 on N Victory F&WBBS, up 40 from previous tallies; however most other F&WBBSs reported numbers similar to previous years.

CORRIGENDA: Vol. 18, No. 3 (July 1968), p. 160, top line, Peak day for Turkey Vulture should be Apr 13; p. 163, Nashville Warbler peak should be May 20.

The editors' thanks to F. LaFrance, S. Morgan, Mrs. J. W. Propst, and R. J. Sutliff for their help in compiling this report.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

Localities: ED—Eldorado; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; WHGMA—Wilson Hill Game Management Area; TH—Tug Hill.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; RW—Robert Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: ED Jun 25 in winter plumage; Cranberry L Jul 5–7; and near Wellsley Is. Great Blue Heron: 21 nests at PRGMA Jul 4, only six seemed active with 12 young, numbers down appreciably from last year (DG). (This heronry is in a game management area where the depth of water has been maintained at a depth greater than normal for several years. The elm and maple trees are dead or nearly so. As the trees rot and are blown over there are less nesting sites and the area becomes more exposed, it must be less attractive for breeding herons—FC). Black-crowned Night Heron: two PRGMA Aug 1.

Canada Goose: Perch L goose drive to band flightless geese resulted in capture of 98 birds including about 35 goslings Jul 8. The WHGMA drive Jul 9 produced 924 birds including 336 goslings. Blue Goose: one captured WHGMA Jul 9, photographed. Mallard: 341 Mallards banded at PRGMA out of a total of 696 ducks banded, 20 nests at PRGMA of which 10 hatched successfully. Black Duck: 239 banded at PRGMA. Gadwall: male ED Jun 25 DG. Pintail: three banded at WHGMA, one at PRGMA; successful nesting at PRGMA. Green-winged Teal: 28 banded at PRGMA, more than usual this year; 12 at PRGMA Jun 12 (RW). Blue-winged Teal: 45 banded at PRGMA; breeding at PRGMA and Honeyville. American Widgeon: WHGMA Jul 9. Wood Duck: 42 banded at PRGMA. Greater Scaup: one ED Jul 31, perhaps sick or injured (DG). Hooded Merganser: nest in Wood Duck box, 7 eggs abandoned, Honeyville. (Most of information about ducks and geese from LC.)

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: only one at a time mostly in the northern half of Region; they seem less common than last year—no evidence of breeding. Goshawk: nest with two young at Minna Anthony Common Nature Centre, Wellesley Is. (Wakefield). Broad-winged Hawk: Wanakena and near Watertown, both Jun 8. Bald Eagle: two adults along Indian River near Theresa Jul 20–21. Gray Partridge: first broods seen Jun 5, early; appear to have a good breeding season.

Most of following shore birds were seen at ED. Semipalmated Plover: Jul 31, Aug 7–15. Ruddy Turnstone: Jul 31, Aug 7–12. Solitary Sandpiper: Aug 7 at ED where it is seldom seen. Greater Yellowlegs: Aug 7. Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 31, Aug 7–12. Knot: Aug 12 fall plumage. Pectoral Sandpiper: Aug 1 at PRGMA and Aug 8 at ED. Least Sandpiper: Jul 31, Aug 7–12. Short-billed Dowitcher: Aug 7. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jul 31 to Aug 15. Sanderling: Jul 31 to Aug 15. Bonaparte's Gull one at ED Jun 25 in changing plumage: nine at ED Jul 6, one ED Aug 7.



Caspian Tern: three ED Jul 31. Snowy Owl: one near Evans Mills, Rt 11 remained through Jun 6 (JB). This is the only Jun record that we know about.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: seen about as often as in recent years. Great Crested Flycatcher: breeding near Watertown. Traill's Flycatcher: Town of Lorraine Aug 6. Least Flycatcher: near Watertown Aug 6. Olive-sided Flycatcher: Whetstone Gulf State Pk, Lewis Co Jul 20–21. Horned Lark: 12 PRGMA Jun 28 (RW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: common at Wanakena Jun 30 (DG). Winter Wren: Jun 8 and Jun 30 at Wanakena. Mockingbird: near Brownville Jun 29 (RW); probable nesting near where a nest was found last year. Swainson's Thrush: TH, Lewis Co Aug 3. Eastern Bluebird: near Harrisville Jun 1, not reported in other parts of Region. Loggerhead Shrike: two adults and two young Danley Rd, north of ED (DG); there were scattered reports of other adults being seen.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: DG saw all the usual breeding warblers of this Region. Golden-winged Warbler: singing male seen and heard on five different days between Jun 2 and 16 in same area, near Gouverneur, nesting suspected (JB); one was heard Jun 16 near Pitcairn, St. Lawrence Co (JB). Mourning Warbler: Aug 6 a few miles east of Watertown (DG).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Grasshopper Sparrow; two near Theresa Jun 26 and four there Jun 29 (RW); near Watertown Jun 29 (DG). Henslow's Sparrow: near PRGMA and two near Theresa Jun 29. Slate-colored Junco: nest with four eggs near Number 4, St. Lawrence Co Jul 13. White-throated Sparrow: near Theresa and Wanakena, nest with young Whetstone Gulf State Pk, Lewis Co Jul 13.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

Our summer went with incredible rapidity but also with a great deal of interest, starting with the nesting of Common Ravens on which there is a Field Note.

The weather has been entirely unpredictable and erratic. In last year's report I see nothing but reiterations about the heat. This year temperatures shot up and down with alarming alacrity. Even Bob Kampf of the Ray Brook weather station, who likes to look at things in the most cheerful light possible, says of June: "The weather during the month of June can best be described in one word 'Gloomy'." In degrees the temperature averaged 60.1 as compared to 1967's 65½ degrees. There was very little sunshine. The only heavy thunderstorm occurred on the last day of the month. Birds arrived at close to normal dates in spite of the "gloom."

The first few days of July were cold, but then came a record high temperature spell which did not break until July 19. Field Sparrows, which are associated in my mind with hot, humid weather, sang constantly. The temperature, according to Bob Kampf, ranged from 87.5 degrees on July 9 to 39 degrees on July 30.

Early August was cold with frosts in many places. Birds started moving about near the middle of the month as usual and we seemed to have about the usual complement of resident species except, perhaps, for an explosion of Veeries and a lack of Purple Finches—Brown Thrashers and Catbirds were up but Scarlet Tanagers and House Wrens were down as in the past few years.

As far as the Redhead report is concerned: Greenleaf T. Chase informs us that there were two unsuccessful attempts at establishing the species at Lake Alice, near West Chazy, five or six years ago. He believes that the flock reported may well have come in on their own.

Frank Schetty, who has birded at Elk Lake for 28 years, gave good details for his Spruce Grouse—black tail with orange band, walking rather than flying, etc. The spot will be kept under close watch. Mr. Schetty's dates at Elk Lake this year were June 14 to July 31. Numbers after species refer, in his own words, to "Singing males, birds seen carrying food, or actual nests discovered."

Robert Hagar viewed his immature Saw-whet Owl for 10 minutes at a distance of 12 feet. He saw "very prominent white Y over beak, white front wing lining, no stripes on belly." His view was "excellent."

The two intensive days, June 15 and 16, spent with John Bull, Robert Wolk and Greenleaf T. Chase were stimulating. Territory covered was from Saranac Lake thru Paul Smiths, St. Regis Falls, Loon Lake and back to Bloomingdale. Mr. Bull could understand more easily why I was not able to pinpoint exactly where some birds were seen.

Robert McInney was in the Adirondacks June 21 thru 28.

Taking matters of interest from the Breeding Bird Surveys: I was able to use all of Speculator done by M. Rusk and D. McIlroy; I have used both initials in order to differentiate that run from Miss Rusk's Sabattis run of which I could use only the 28 stops in Hamilton Co. Mr. Chase's was the Willsboro run as last year. I was able to utilize the 21 stops in Franklin Co. on Dr. Meade's St. Regis Falls run.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; JB—John Bull; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; EG—Edward Gardephe; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hager; JK—Joseph Keji; GM—Gordon Meade; DMcI—Dorothy McIlroy RMcI—Robert McInney; MR—Margaret Rusk; FS—Frank Schetty; HT—Helen Tyler; RW—Robert Wolk; DY—David Young; RY—Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: Aus M—Ausable Marsh; B—Brook; F&WBBS—Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey; LP—Lake Placid; Mad—Madawaska; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake; P—Pond.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one pair Black P near Keese Mill, Clear P above Meacham, Square P, E of Rainbow L, Rainbow L, Mt P, N of Paul Smiths (JH); one Rollins P near Fish Creek Jun 8 (Carlson); two imm Duck P near Loon L Aug 19 (GTC); two pair Elk L neither of which laid eggs nor brought off young for the first time in 28 years (FS) three Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR). Horned Grebe: adult with young L Alice late Jun (EG). Pied-billed Grebe: one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR). Great Blue Heron: one Duane Jun 4 (EA); four Jun 16 Paul Smiths to Bloomingdale (JB *et al*); one Jun 10 & 11 RB (JK); one Little Tupper L (RMcI) Jun 24; one Little Colby P Aug 3 (RH). Green Heron: one Little Colby P Aug 3 (RH). American Bittern: one Jun 5 RB (JK); one Jones P Jun 16 (JB *et al*); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); one Elk L (FS); one Little Colby P Aug 3 (RH).

BRANT: one carefully studied, Sacandaga R, E of Speculator Jun 17 (MR), Mallard: one Jones P Jun 16 (JB *et al*). Black Duck: one Elk L (FS); three Aug 5–9 RB (JK). Green-winged Teal: two drakes Mad flow Jun 15 (RH&mob). Wood Duck: one Mad flow Jun 15 (RH&mob); one Elk L (FS). Redhead: small brood early Jun, King's Bay near Coopersville (Kowalski *vide* GTC); there have been attempts to introduce this species (see introduction). Ring-necked Duck: four Tupper L Jun 24 (RMcI). Common Golden-eye: two broods of different ages Aus M mid-Jun (EG). Hooded Merganser: two Bear P near Upper St Regis Jun 4 (JH); female with eight small young RB Jun 10, one adult Aug 8 (JK); downy young Keese Mill Jun 15 (JB *et al*); five downy young coming down Mt Pisgah toward Saranac R Jun 19 (EA&HD); one Jun 24 Panther P near TL (RMcI); one Elk L (FS). Common Merganser: Upper St Regis L Jun 4 (JH); three full-grown young Aus R at Wilmington Notch Jul 12 (RH); three Jun 24 & 28 Aus R and TL (RMcI); adult female and nine nearly grown young early Aug Piseco L (DMcI); three Elk L (FS).

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Goshawk: one Franklin Co Jun 15 & 16 (JB *et al*); one SL Jun 19 (HD); Jun 18 one fledgling in nest, one fledgling out of nest, adult within eight feet Black B; nest site North Elba, nest not found but actions and calling of adult gave full evidence of active site in area, adult diving within 10 to 20 feet at five different intervals Jun 25; imm over Connery P within 50 feet being chased by Red-winged Blackbirds Aug 12; nest Jay, Jun 16 one adult and three young almost ready to fly, sixth consecutive nesting known and observed at this site, all but one successful, 2 nests in same area, used alternate years—this observer is very familiar with Goshawks (RH). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Santa Clara Jun 15 (RH&mob). Red-tailed Hawk: one Bloomingdale June 15, one Keene Jul 18 (RH). Broad-winged Hawk: one Jun 4-Aug 8 RB (JK); one Franklin Co Jun 15 (JB *et al*); two LP Jun 1 (EA&HD); two LP area late Jun (RMcI); one Jul 28 SL (HD); two Elk L (FS). Bald Eagle: one off and on near Newcomb (Wyley *fide* GTC); one adult Piseco Aug 3 (DMcI). Marsh Hawk: two Norman Ridge Jun 16 (JB *et al*); one LS Jun 25 (HD). Osprey: one L Colby Jun 16 (JB *et al*); one Jun 24 Little Tupper L (RMcI); active nests near Oseetah, Quebec B Franklin Co, Ochre P near St Regis (JH). Sparrow Hawk: three Ross Pk on way to Mad Jun 15 (JB *et al*); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); one Jun 26 Wilmington (RMcI); one Jun 28 Wilmington (EA&HD).

Ring-necked Pheasant: four Jun 18—released birds?—(F&WBBS-GTC). Spruce Grouse: very co-operative, life bird for JB and Robert Wolk on Jun 15, also for DMcI on Jun 30, both at Mad; one probable Elk L, observer experienced, territory unlikely Jun 26 (FS). Ruffed Grouse: decidedly fewer reports than 1967, eleven Elk L (FS). Virginia Rail: seen carry food Duane Jun 15 (JB,RW,GTC&HD). Killdeer: one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC). American Woodcock: one Jun 9 banded at Heart L (RY); one "slowly strutting and swaying (decoying?)" Lewis Jul 26 (GC). Common Snipe: Kushaqua Jun 15 (JB *et al*); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC). Spotted Sandpiper: one Elk L (FS); two Jul 25, one Aug 7 RB (JK). Herring Gull: a few (one to six) over lakes and rivers of Region. Ring-billed Gull: two Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); a few visitors Elk L (FS); four Jun 28 L Champlain (EA&HD). Black Tern: six TL Jun 24 (RMcI); all Jul Elk L (FS). Mourning Dove: two Jun 1-Jul 3 RB (JK); one Santa Clara Jun 15 (JB *et al*); six Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); pair Aug 2 Jay (GC). Black-billed Cuckoo: one L Kiwassa Jul 4 (GM). Great Horned Owl: one Union Falls Jun 3 (GTC). Barred Owl: one Wilmington Notch Campsite Jun 21 (RMcI); two calling N of Scarface Mt, North Elba Jun 25 (RH); one Elk L (FS). Saw-whet Owl: Glen Summit near Jay, adult picked up dead on gravel road in excellent condition Jul 5, elevation 1700'; imm Keene, flushed from open spruce excellent view see introduction (RH).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Whip-poor-will: one Jun 22 Upper Jay (RMcI); one late Jun near Gabriels (DY). Common Nighthawk: decidedly down in numbers both from my own observations and from reports sent in, one Jun 14 SL (EA). Chimney Swift: five to ten RB (JK); few Jun 15 (JB *et al*); five Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcI); two Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); nine Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); few Wilmington late Jun (RMcI); 24 Elk L (FS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: pair or more at most operative feeders; seven Elk L (FS). Belted Kingfisher: one or two Jun 10-Aug 13 RB (JK); one LP Jun 8 (HD), one Jun 15 Franklin Co (JB *et al*); one Aus R near LP Jun 28 (EA&HD); one Elk L (FS). Yellow-shafted Flicker: larger numbers reported than 1967; 12 Elk L (FS). Pileated Woodpecker: one Jun 15 Franklin Co (JB *et al*); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: good numbers thru period; 35 possible nest sites Elk L as compared to 25 in '67. Hairy & Downy Woodpeckers: normal, see '67 note. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one Jun 19 near Elizabethtown (GC); one Elk L (FS).

Eastern Kingbird: one to pair reported all areas. Great Crested Flycatcher: one Heart L Jun 9 (RY); one Jun 15 Santa Clara (JB *et al*); one Jun 15 RB (JK); one

Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); eight Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC). Eastern Phoebe; most suitable places had their pair, GC was interested in a pair which used a remodeled Barn Swallow nest attached to a vertical wall inside shed, they added moss, Lewis. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two Santa Clara Jun 15 (JB *et al*); three Jun 27 Algonquin Peak Jun 27 (RMcI); two Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR). Traill's Flycatcher: a few in most suitable alder swamps; eight Jul 7 (F&WBBS-GM). Least Flycatcher: normal, one to ten in a day's birding. Eastern Wood Pewee: this species has seemed down in past few years; a few scattered reports—two Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcI); eight Elk L (FS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: almost everyone hears at least one but very few are seen—one seen Jun 15 (JB *et al*). Tree Swallow: all areas; 35 Elk L (FS). Bank Swallow: these birds move all about as banks keep being needed for sandpits; my reports are sparse; one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); few thru period RB (JK); four Jun 15 (JB *et al*); six Jul 7 (F&WBBS-GM); 65 at Elk L where things may remain a little more stable. Rough-winged Swallow: one Jun 4, 8 & 26 RB (JK); one LP Jun 26 (RMcI); six Elk L Jun 24 (FS). Barn Swallow: numerous; 100 Jul 17 and again mid-Aug SL (EA&HD). Cliff Swallow: this species seems fairly numerous if one knows where to look; 70 plus nests, road to L Clear Jun 16 (JB *et al*). PURPLE MARTIN: two RB late Jun (GTC); two Gabriels Jun 13 (DY); not known to have nested but worth watching for.

Gray Jay: 10 Mad Jun 15 (RH). Blue Jay: quiet but present everywhere at this season. COMMON RAVEN: two adults, two imm, see Field Note. Common Crow: small numbers all areas. Black-capped Chickadee: same as Blue Jay. Boreal Chickadee: five Mad Jun 15 (RW); one Jun 27 Algonquin Peak (RMcI); three Elk L (FS). White-breasted Nuthatch: normal resident numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatch: normal, more numerous in woods than previous species. Brown Creeper: three Jun 22 high peak area (RMcI); one Jul 12 RB (JK); one Elk L (FS). House Wren: four Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC). Winter Wren: four Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcI); two Franklin Co Jun 15 & 16 (JB *et al*); two Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); seven Elk L (FS). Catbird and Brown Thrasher: more reports each year; pair of each near our yard; Catbirds also in thickets far from civilization.

Robin: started nesting early because of warm Apr, many broods! Wood Thrush: F&WBBSs—10 Jun 17 (MR&DMcI), nine Jun 18 (GTC), three Jul 7 (GM); otherwise very few reports; feeding young SL early Jul (ED); one Elk L (FS). Hermit Thrush: population at least twice that of previous species; 18 Elk L (FS). Swainson's Thrush: one, road to L Clear Jun 13 (HD); several Franklin Co Jun 15 (JB *et al*); four Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcI); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); 17 Elk L (FS). Gray-cheeked Thrush: two Jun 27 Algonquin Peak at about 4000' (RMcI); one imm at about 3000' near Elk L (FS). Veery: abundant—30 on one BBS 40 on another; JB *et al* lost count on Jun 15. Eastern Bluebird: good return, juveniles reported from many areas including Vermontville (HT); Gabriels (Loope), RB (GTC), and lawn of HD&EA. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Jun 4 RB (JK); several Jun 15 (JB *et al*); one Little Tupper L Jun 24 (RMcI); two Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); six Elk L (FS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing male Santa Clara (JB *et al*); three Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); one LP Jun 23 (RMcI); one singing male Jun 15 and Jul 5 Bloomingdale (RH); two Elk L (FS). Cedar Waxwing: one of the few species which came north noticeably early in warm Apr; two Duane Jun 4 (EA&JH); Schetty speaks of unusually early eggs on Jun 24 at Elk L; RH had an unusual individual with a flame-orange tail band in his yard in mid-Aug. Starling: like Robin, early nesting and many broods.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one Bear P near St Regis Jun 4 (HD); two Jun 15 & 16 Franklin Co (JB *et al*); one Jun 4-25 RB (JK); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); nine Elk L (FS). Red-eyed Vireo: good numbers all areas, in the twenties in a day's birding; imm flying Aug 11 SL (HD).



Warblers: Black-and-white: one Franklin Co Jun 15 (JB *et al*); from one to six on four different F&WBBSs; 15 Elk L (FS). Tennessee: one Elk L, the first one FS has reported to me, no details. Nashville: one or two in a day's birding all areas. Parula: an established breeding bird; two, road to Saranac Inn Jun 16 (JB *et al*); singing male Connery P North Elba Jul 12 (RH); Aug 12 RB (JK); six Elk L (FS); reported on most BBSs. Yellow: two TL Jun 24, one Jay Jun 26 (RMcl); two Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcl); three Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); one Jul 7 (F&WBBS-GM). Magnolia: fairly common breeder, 14 Elk L (FS). Black-throated Blue: same as previous species. Myrtle: slightly more common than previous species; with young RB Jul 11 and 24 (JK). Black-throated Green: four Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); Heart L Jun 8 (HD); heard and seen Jun 15 Mad (RW); 19 Elk L (FS). Blackburnian: seems to have picked Elk L as favorite area, FS lists 27 sites, one to four elsewhere. Chestnut-sided: common breeder. Blackpoll: three singing males Knob Lock Mt near Elizabethtown 3200' Jun 19 (CC); eight Jun 27 Algonquin Peak, no altitude given (RMcl); four Elk L Sunrise Mt about 3000' (FS). Ovenbird: heard but seldom seen; one banded ADK Loj, Heart L Jun 8 (RY). Northern Waterthrush: Jun 15 & 16 Franklin Co (JB *et al*); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); four Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcl); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); one Jul 12 RB (JK). Mourning: one Santa Clara Jun 15 (JB *et al*); two Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcl); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); nine Jul 7 (F&WBBS-GM); one singing male Jun 25 RB (RH). Yellowthroat: ubiquitous. Canada: nesting Gabriels (DY); one Jun 15-Aug 12 RB (JK); nine Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcl); four Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR); one Jul 7 (F&WBBS-GM); six Elk L (FS). American Redstart: common breeder.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: small flocks in and near villages and farms. Bobolink: bred in usual areas near LP & SL—road to L Clear, road to Marcy Trail, etc; 15 Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); gone L Clear road Aug 5 (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: bred in open fields; seven Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC). Red-winged Blackbird: common. Baltimore Oriole: one Jun 14 RB (JK); one or two Jun 15 (JB *et al*); six (F&WBBS-GTC); two Elk L (FS). Rusty Blackbird: one Elk L (FS). Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird: small numbers thru period. Scarlet Tanager: one or two in a day's birding; 11 Jun 17 (F&WBBS-MR&DMcl).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: this bird is so loved that it is much reported; 15 Elk L (FS); imm Jul 27 SL (HD). Indigo Bunting: one Jun 21 Wilmington (RMcl); three Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); one Jun 18 (F&WBBS-MR). Evening Grosbeak: breeder in moderate numbers SL, Santa Clara, Mad, Newcomb, etc. Purple Finch: seems to decline in numbers each year, example: 14 Elk L as compared to 25 in '67. Pine Siskin: small flocks reported from various places; as they were about from late May to end of Jul they were probably breeding but no one saw a nest. American Goldfinch: banded Heart L Jun 8 (RY); common thru period, groups of 15 or more SL, RB, etc. Red Crossbill: one Jun 1 & 3 RB (JK); one early Jul Elk L—not a breeding record (FS). Rufous-sided Towhee: pair Black B Jun 18 (RH); two (F&WBBS-GM). Savannah Sparrow: with food Jun 25 SL (EA&HD); four (F&WBBS-GTC). Vesper Sparrow: one Jun 22 near Wilmington (RMcl); four Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); a few Jun 15 and 16 Franklin Co (JB *et al*). Slate-colored Junco: banded Heart L Jun 8 (RY); a few thru period other areas. Chipping Sparrow: numerous, pair feeding young in nest Aug 7, feeding young out of nest Aug 13 SL (EA&HD). Field Sparrow: one Jun 7 SL (HD); one or two Franklin Co Jun 15 (JB *et al*); one near Wilmington Jun 22 (RMcl); three Jun 18 (F&WBBS-GTC); two Jul 7 (F&WBBS-GM). White-throated Sparrow: common thruout. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Mad Jun 15 (JB *et al*); one singing Jun 8, with food Jun 15 Bloomingdale (RH). Swamp Sparrow: one to four in a day; 11 Elk L (FS). Song Sparrow: common all areas; with food Jun 25 SL (EA&HD).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983



## REGION 8 — HUDSON — MOHAWK

HAZEL F. BUNDY

The temperature during both June and July was fairly close to normal. The average temperature during June was 66.7 degrees, only .6 degrees below normal, and the average temperature during July was 72.7 degrees, .6 degrees above normal. On the other hand, precipitation differed widely from normal during both months, making June a wet month and July an extremely dry month. June had a total rainfall of 4.38 inches, 1.38 inches above normal. July's total rainfall was only .49 inches, 3.00 inches below the norm. Only four days during July had a total rainfall large enough to measure! The first half of August continued to be unusually dry with temperatures about normal. (All data taken at the Albany Airport.)

The number of breeding bird counts conducted in the Region for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service increased to 15 this year, three more than in 1967, and seven more than in 1966. A total of 107 species was recorded. The following is a list of the 25 most abundant species: Redwinged Blackbird, 2422; Starling, 2008; Robin, 966; House Sparrow, 781; Common Grackle, 695; Song Sparrow, 683; American Goldfinch, 527; Common Crow, 458; Barn Swallow, 424; Chipping Sparrow, 334; Eastern Meadowlark, 289; Wood Thrush, 284; Blue Jay, 241; Yellowthroat, 222; Veery, 220; Red-eyed Vireo 205; Yellow Warbler 202; Brown-headed Cowbird, 201; Catbird 192; Baltimore Oriole, 190; Tree Swallow, 177; House Wren, 171; Bobolink, 172; Rufous-sided Towhee, 169; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 147. New to the "top 25" are Tree Swallow and Yellow-shafted Flicker. Dropped from the list are Mourning Dove and Ovenbird. Twenty-one species were recorded on all 15 surveys, but not all of these species have abundant populations. For instance, the Scarlet Tanager, which was recorded on all surveys, had a total count less than half the number of Rufous-sided Towhees, the least populous species of the "top 25". Once again, Red-winged Blackbirds and Starlings dominated the list. Their combined populations are 28.3% of all birds counted on all surveys.

The only real highlight of the period was the Western Meadowlark, the first ever recorded for the Region. Of unusual interest were: an increase in the number of Common Egrets, one Black-crowned Night Heron (after an absence of two years on the list), and a Carolina Wren. Also of special interest were some nesting reports made by several observers, including the first substantiated record of the House Finch nesting in this Region.

Observers cited more than once: GA—Gustave Angst; HFB—Hazel Bundy; JB—James Bush; L&VB—Lee and Virginia Burland; JC—Juanita Cook; P&GE—Paul and Georgia Erlenbach; M&AG—Murray and Alice Giddings; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; MK—Marcia Kent; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; RMCC—Robert McCullough; PMcG-Peggy McGuirk; ER—Edgar Reilly; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; NS—Natalie Snare; HHS—Harvey Spivak; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick.

Area compilers: Rena Dodd, Betty Laros, and Clarissa Ketcham.

Abbreviations: AR—Alcove Reservoir; EG—East Greenbush; Gr—Greenville; Nisk—Niskayuna; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; BBC—Breeding Bird Census.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three adult pairs and three young Jun 25 L George (*vide* MK). Pied-billed Grebe: one report—Jul 25, 29 Gr (CK). Great Blue Heron; frequent reports of one to three; max ten Aug 12 VFG (RPY). COMMON EGRET: reported during Jul and Aug on ten different dates ranging from Jul 16 through period, from four different areas. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:

one imm seen Bashford Rd by Giddings Pond Aug 18, after having been heard for several weeks (M&AG *et al*). Canada Goose: an unusual report of a flock of ten led by one duck flying north in Nisk Jun 23 (RPY). Brant: five Jun 2 Mohawk R near NWW (WBS); and two Jun 11 near Gr (CK).

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Jun 28 Schodack (L&VB). Cooper's Hawk: three reports—scattered dates in widely-separated localities. Red-tailed Hawk: only a total of three on the 15 BBC's; several additional reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Jul in Ghent (P&GE). Broad-winged Hawk: four scattered reports. Marsh Hawk: one Aug 11 VFG (HFB), and one Jul 14 Glenville (EH,RMcC). Osprey: reappeared Aug 3 SCR (HFB,PMcG). Bob-white: reported from eight areas, an apparent increase over the last two years. Virginia Rail: *no* reports. Sora: a pair with at least two young observed Jun 12–25 Chatham (M&AG). Common Gallinule: reported several dates Gr (CK).

Semipalmated Plover: one Aug 3 NWW (HHS), and one Aug 10 Round L (PPW). Upland Plover: reported from three areas—max eight Nisk (RPY). Solitary Sandpiper: one Jul Ghent (GE); one Aug 10 near Nassau (MG,ER, and B. Bluett). Greater Yellowlegs: one migrant Aug 5 Gr (CK). Semipalmated Sandpiper: four Aug 10 Round L (PPW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: scarce, with only a total of three on the BBC reports; four additional reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: also scarce—a total of seven on BBC reports; two additional reports. Barn Owl: one Jun 30 near Gr (*vide* CK). Screech Owl: one Jul in Ghent (P&GE). Great Horned Owl: reported from four areas.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS:** Red-headed Woodpecker: a family in the same area as in the three previous summers, near Gansevoort (F. W. Gubitz). Eastern Kingbird: migrating in moderate numbers the first half of Aug (RPY). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Jun 5 Gr (CK); three Jun 9 South Horicon BBC (BRS); and one throughout Jul near Jenny L (R. Stone). Tree Swallow: nest boxes at VFG showed large clutches, but fledging success was down (RPY); one albino was seen Aug 13 Ghent (GE). Bank Swallow: banding carried out at four sites—Glenville Landfill, Hetcheltown Rd sandpit, Clifton Park Landfill, and Lasher's gravel pit near Half-moon—yielded over 1100; birds at the last three sites named, fledged about the dates expected; Glenville began fledging Jul 2–4 and peaked a few days after, the later dates the result of digging disturbances (RPY); there was also a colony of 120 holes in Colonie (HHS). Barn Swallow: migrants or wanderers seen Jul 2 on, in EG (PPW); one albino Castleton (JC). Cliff Swallow: a colony of 15 pair first appeared at Gr, an area in which they had not nested previously, on Jul 27, an unusually late date, and had 14 nests built by Jul 30; nesting was successful, with 12 of the nests occupied and adults feeding young on Aug 15 (CK); two pairs attempted nesting Hillsdale Jun 1 and 8, but were not successful (NS). Purple Martin: colony of 12 in W. Glenville increased to 30, and departed Aug 15 (RMcC). Winter Wren: one pair nested on a porch at Jenny L and fledged four young (C. W. Huntley). **CAROLINA WREN:** one heard singing Jul 3 EG (PPW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two reports—one Jun 17 Durham BBC (CK); one Aug 5 Gr (CK). **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET:** an unusual summer report—one heard and seen Jul 5–9 Hillsdale (NS).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: three reports—two Jun 9 S. Horicon BBC (BRS), a single Jun 16 Medusa BBC (JB), and a single Jul 7 Warren Co (EH).

Warblers: Blue-winged: appears to be extending its nesting range northward—recorded for first time near Petersburg Jun 15 (PPW). Parula: one Jul 7 near Pottersville (PPW). Yellow: migration apparent Aug 1–3 Nisk (RPY); banded: 15 Aug 4, seven Aug 9, and 23 Aug 10 VH (RPY). Myrtle: apparently increasing—on three identical BBC's, a total of eight in 1968, as contrasted to a total of two in 1967. Bay-breasted: two late migrants Jun 9 South Horicon BBC (BRS). Blackpoll: last migrant Jun 4 Gr (CK). Prairie: reported from several areas in the Region, includ-

ing Gr Jun 5, 8 (CK), Ghent in Jul (P&GE), AR Jun 20 (PPW), and a first record for an area near Petersburg Jun 15 Petersburg BBC (PPW). American Redstart: apparently increasing—a comparison of ten identical BBC's showed a total of 20 in 1967, 50 in 1968.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: flocks of 12 Jul 6, and 18 Jul 14 Colonie (HHS). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: first recorded, for the first time in the Region, Jun 8 Ghent BBC (MDG,PPW), in a field at the junction of Co Highway Rts. 28 and 28B Columbia Co, near Kinderhook Lake; both song and distinctive call notes heard numerous times; subsequently seen and heard by mob; remained until at least Jun 30 (CK). Orchard Oriole: more reports than usual—one male, one female, and one imm seen late Jun Castleton (JC); one adult Glenmont (Robert Korns); one female and one imm Westnere (Sam Madison). Brown-headed Cowbird: a flock of 45 Aug 4 Colonie, only one individual subsequently at Colonie for remainder of period (HHS). Evening Grosbeak: apparently nested Galway L—family of at least five at feeder Aug 25 (Mildred Crary). HOUSE FINCH: a pair appeared at the same feeder from which this species fed during the summer of 1967, from late May on; an imm was fed by the male Jun 19, and on Jun 21, 22, and 23, two imm were fed by the parents at the feeder; the family disappeared the first part of Jul; a pair of Purple Finches raised at least two young in this same area, and appeared at the same feeder in Nisk, giving ample opportunity for careful comparison (GA); also, one seen Bashford Rd, Chatham Center Jul 6 (ER); and a female was seen with a singing male, River Rd, Nisk Jul 6 (HHS). Pine Siskin: two individuals—a pair, or adult and imm—at Jenny L in Jun (Barry S. Havens). American Goldfinch: more than 100 in flock Aug 14 Gr (CK). Grasshopper Sparrow; common in several areas of Columbia Co, at least ten in one area (PPW); one in Castleton to end of period (JC). Henslow's Sparrow: one report—max three, from Jul 15–25 Gr (CK).

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The month of June was cool and very wet with as much as 6.85 inches of rainfall recorded at Lake Mohonk in the Shawangunk Mountains. July was much warmer and very dry with only 1.45 inches at Mohonk. The weather continued dry thru mid-August, and it was only the extensive rainfall earlier that saved the foliage from harm.

Fred Hough reports the bird life in Ulster as largely normal. A few species were down, but they have been so for several seasons now. Bob Deed reports from the Rockland area that shorebirds and waterfowl have had a "better than usual" season, but that some species of hawks and owls went unreported.

As usual the number of observers in the field was low and this probably accounts for the numbers of many species being less than normal.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; West—Westchester Co; Rock—Rockland Co; RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

Contributors: Robert F. Deed, Mrs. William Grierson, Fred Hough, Eleanor Pink, Otis Waterman.

Observers: ERB—Eugene R. Brown; RFD—Robert F. Deed; JD—James Demes; PG—Pat Garthwaite; FG—Florence Germond; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred

Hough; EVJ—Eric V. Johnson; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; OW—Otis Waterman.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Pied-billed Grebe: nested in Pleasant Valley, and Amenia, Dutch (WBC). Great Blue Heron: continues scarce through much of Region, especially Rock—only report from Rock, four, Aug 15 at the new Nauraushaun Res. (JD); one found ill at Waccabuc, West on Aug 10, died on Aug 11 (W.G.Reese); WBC reports nine active nests with 20 young at Tamarack Rookery during Jun and Jul. Green Heron: normal to better. Common Egret: four, near Pine Plains, Dutch, Jul 29–31. (VP). Black-crowned Night Heron: two, Cross River Res. West, Aug 11 (Mildred Kurka); none elsewhere.

**Waterfowl:** The ample wetness of spring and early summer seemed to have an effect. Most ponds had Canada Geese, Mallards and Blacks. In early Aug. the Hudson R had many Mallards and Blacks with a few Blue-winged Teal. Canada Goose: 12 over Katonah, West, Jul 26. (William and Mildred Grierson). Green-winged Teal: one pair near a small flock of Blue-winged Teal at Nauraushaun Res. Aug 15 (JD); others observed throughout period at Pine Plains (VP). Blue-winged Teal: same dates and locations as Green-winged; no young observed.

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Most species of Raptors normal. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report one Jul 8, Rhinebeck (OW,PC); Jack Orth reports this species all but disappeared from Bear Mt. Pk; niche successfully occupied by increasing Red-tailed Hawk. Marsh Hawk: unreported. Sparrow Hawk: very few reports from Rock, normal elsewhere. Ruffed Grouse: numbers continue to drop, but still many reported. Bobwhite: WBC reports doing "quite well" in Dutch; observed regularly Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah, West. Virginia Rail: one nested Thompson Pond near Pine Plains; one with five young observed Tri-Loba Hill Sanct by Mrs. C. Robert Roy on Jun 18. Sora Rail: one Jun 16 Tri-Loba Hill Sanct; one Jun 10, Briarcliff Farm, Dutch.

**Shorebird numbers** were up in Rock primarily due to change in habitat. Low water levels of reservoirs near New City and Nauraushaun have proved an attraction for many species. Semipalmated Plover: one Nauraushaun Res. Aug 11 (RFD). Common Snipe: one calling Jul 28, Briarcliff Farm, Dutch (VP). Spotted Sandpiper: normal. Greater Yellowlegs: one Nauraushaun Res. Aug 11, rather early date for Rock. Pectoral Sandpiper: after big movement of last spring, only two reported, Aug 11 Nauraushaun Res. (RFD). Least Sandpiper: migrants already moving thru first half of Jul; six at Stanfordville Jul 14–16 (TH,FG); six at Nauraushaun Res. and at Piermont Pier, Rock Aug 11 (RFD). Semipalmated Sandpiper: moving thru with the previous species; 12 to 15 at Nauraushaun Res. Aug 11.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Bob Deed reports this species as the dominant species both individually and collectively at Piermont Pier. On Aug 11 he found better than 100 there, with a few less Herring, about 60 Ring-billed, and 40 Laughing. Common Tern: in good numbers on lower Hudson, several dozen observed from Stony Pt to New York City in mid-Aug. (EDT). Mourning Dove: good increase in numbers in lower Hudson Valley (EVJ); confirmed by FH in Ulst area. Cuckoos: both species unusually scarce. Owls: almost unreported except for Screech—possibly the result of few observers. The Screech Owl was observed at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct and reported in normal numbers from Dutch.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS:** Whip-poor-will: fewer reported than most seasons—only two in Jun. Common Nighthawk: at least six in Poughkeepsie thru period; good numbers reported from Middletown and Newburgh. Chimney Swift: normal. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: quite scarce in northern portion. Most species of Woodpeckers quite normal. Red-headed Woodpecker: one, Centenary, near New City, Rock Jun 15 (Frank & Ruth Steffens), first Rock report in two years and second in six years (RAS). Eastern Kingbird: after good influx in spring, numbers fell off dramatically until species very uncommon at end of period. Yellow-bellied



Flycatcher: an unusual summer report—one singing repeatedly at Naurausaun Res. Aug 15, unconfirmed (JD). Traill's Flycatcher: only report, two nesting birds in Dutch. (WBC). Eastern Wood Pewee: rarely common, this year quite scarce. Most species of swallows normal after being unusually scarce in spring. Tree Swallow: nested late and with poor success in Dutch, possibly due to excessive Jun rain. Large numbers of both Tree and Bank massing along the Hudson at Cornwall in early Jul. Cliff Swallow: six active nests at Upton L, Dutch, one nest less than last year. Purple Martin: absent from most nest areas since recent disasters.

Blue Jay: exceptionally good breeding in Lower Hudson Valley (EVJ). Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: numbers seem to be increasing over local lows of last few seasons. Red-breasted Nuthatch: seen and heard at Kripplebush, Ulst thru Jun and Jul; no nesting observed. Brown Creeper: two pairs at Surebridge Swamp, Harriman Section of Bear Mt. State Pk, Jun 15 (ERB). House Wren: population good. Winter Wren: singing at Surebridge Swamp on Jun 5, on Jun 15 six including four grown young in full plumage but noticeably clumsy in flight, with the male singing regularly (ERB); one, Thompson Pond, Dutch, Jun 10 (TH.PG). Carolina Wren: none. Long-billed Marsh Wren: numbers severely reduced in Piermont Marsh area (RFD). Mockingbird: holding its own; increase of past few years seems to be tapering off. Catbird: good breeding record (EVJ).

Robin: Same as previous species. *HERMIT THRUSH*: usually unreported in summer—four birds singing at Surebridge Swamp, Bear Mt. State Pk, on Jun 5 and again on Jun 15 (ERB); two observed, one singing, Jul 26 at Deep Hollow, Bear Mt. State Pk, near Rt. 6 (Hugh Pembleton). Latter birds near area where your reporter heard them about 12 years ago. Eastern Bluebird; continues low; WBC reports 70 nesting pairs out of 150 boxes provided, in four townships in Dutch. Early hatches had good weather but suffered high predation. Wrens and House Sparrows worst predators, cats and raccoons took some. Second families smaller but with good success. One late nesting, believed a third family, banded Aug 19 at about two weeks age. Cedar Waxwing: numbers good after about two years of scarcity, some nesting reports at end of season. Loggerhead Shrike: an unusual summer date in Rock—Aug 11, one, Piermont Pier, (RFD).

**VIREOS—SPARROWS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: scarce thru period. Solitary Vireo: unusual summer reports in Dutch—one Jun 15 Thompson Pd. (FG), one Jul 6 Deep Hollow Rd (FG). Red-eyed Vireo: numbers severely down from usual. Warbling Vireo: normal to slightly less.

Warblers: Most species scarce in Mohonk area. Other areas did not report similarly. Yellow Warbler: numbers good thru much of Region (EVJ). Cerulean Warbler: the many birds reported in spring failed to stay; usual nesters in Mt. Rutsen area of Dutch seemed down again this year. Blackburnian Warbler: nesting in one or two locations in Dutch (WBC). Blackpoll Warbler: last migrant Jun 7 Dutch (WBC). American Redstart: numbers good in lower Hudson Valley (EVJ).

Bobolink: good breeding population. Orchard Oriole: nesting in several locations—one pair at Chester, Oran and one at Green Haven, Dutch. Common Grackle: numbers continue high. Cowbird: less than usual, but still numerous. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: many observers agreed this species was noticeably down in numbers thru spring and summer. Purple Finch: a family of four, Jul 18 & 19, Mt. Kisco, (Wm. & Mildred Grierson); a small band remained at Mohonk L thru summer, fed regularly on sunflower seeds (Dan Smiley). Slate-colored Junco: two, Jul 6, Deep Hollow Rd, Dutch.

**ADDENDUM:** The 60 Bonaparte's Gull reported at Cruger Is., Dutch by OW *et al* in the last report [*Kingbird* 18(3): 176, July 1968] were there on May 4, 1968.

Autumn reports due Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928



## REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Most observers commented that this was a "good" summer in terms of apparent breeding success.

The most conspicuous sign of this season's prosperity were the swallows. They were noted raising two broods all over Long Island, and by early August their young filled the air at traditional gathering spots such as Jamaica Bay and Tobay Sanctuary. One need only read last year's summer and fall reports to realize the depths to which the swallow population had fallen last year.

Another prosperous species was the Osprey. Extensive field work on Gardiner's Island during 1966 and 1967 recorded three or four nestlings each year. In 1968, no less than 30 young were noted in a check of the same nest sites as in the previous two years. One is tempted to congratulate Suffolk County for this good fortune—a court order last year restrained them from using DDT.

### LATE MIGRATION

Most birders put away their binoculars on May 31st, the traditional end of spring migration. The following is a log of migrants mist-netted and banded by Fred Schaeffer at Great Gull Island, a small "tern" island lying east of Orient Point:

Jun 10—Least Flycatcher (very late), Blue Jay (2), *LINCOLN'S SPARROW* (latest spring record, verified by Dr. K. C. Parkes).

Jun 14—Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Jun 15—Great Crested Flycatcher (extremely late), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (extremely late), Traill's Flycatcher (extremely late), American Redstart (female, extremely late).

Jun 17—Indigo Bunting (sub-adult male, extremely late).

Jun 20—*ACADIAN FLYCATCHER* (lengthy details submitted including the fact that it called after release; photographed and verified by Dr. D. Cooper and Dr. K. C. Parkes; latest spring record), *SEASIDE SPARROW* (male, latest spring record).

Note that Fred banded the above 12 migrants on 5 of the 10 days he had nets set. Similar data could probably be gathered during June at almost any other coastal locality in our region. We doubt this represents a late migration, as much as the inevitable passage of late stragglers.

### BIRDS BREEDING IN CENTRAL PARK

Birds continue to breed in Central Park despite the increased ecological and sociological changes in this "sooty-green" oasis. Roger Pasquier made two serious attempts on June 15 and 30 to discover possible nesting species, and the following is his list: Mourning Dove (3 each trip), Chimney Swift (4 each trip), Great Crested Flycatcher (singing bird, June 15), Eastern Wood Pewee (pair in same spot each trip), Catbird (pair with two young on the 30th), Brown Thrasher, Red-Eyed Vireo, Ovenbird (one on the 30th), Yellowthroat (2 males on the 15th), Baltimore Oriole (pair with nest), Cardinal (female on both trips).

Blue Jay, Robin, and Common Grackle were all mentioned as being "common" and other observers noted Tufted Titmouse with young. Also, House Finches probably nested behind the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Excepting Chimney Swift, if all the above species bred in the park this summer, the total would be 15, plus the introduced Rock Dove, Starling and House Sparrow. Fifteen however, represents a 25% increase over the "dozen" mentioned by Carleton (The Birds of Central and Pros-

pect Parks, 1958. *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society*, Nos. 66-70: 1-60.). Regarding several of the above species, Carleton states: Mourning Dove—"uncommon transient;" Great Crested Flycatcher—"bred 1955;" Eastern Wood Pewee—"occasionally lingering into summer . . . bred until 1922;" Ovenbird—"common spring transient;" Yellowthroat—"common transient;" Baltimore Oriole—"last bred in 1937." He listed six occurrences of the Tufted Titmouse; the House Finch had not yet been recorded.

Rarities reported this summer included Black Rail (breeding), Willet (breeding range expansion), American Avocet, Gull-billed Tern (breeding?), Saw-whet Owl (breeding), Wheatear, and Acadian Flycatcher.

Abbreviations used: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Jones—Jones Beach State Park.

Contributors frequently cited: AB—Albert Bell; BC—Barbara Connolly; AD—Aline Dove; TD—Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; DF—Darrel Ford; HH—Helen Hays; PJ—P. Jones; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; LM—Lee Morgan; WN—William Norse; WP—Will Post; BT—Benjamin Trimble; JY—John Yrizzary.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Aug 11 Jones (TD,PJ)—early migrant, still in summer plumage. Red-throated Loon: four Jul 20 Gardiner's Island (BT)—even one would be rare at this date. Cory's Shearwater: Aug 5 Lower NY Bay (MK). Sooty Shearwater: Aug 5 Lower NY Bay (MK). *LEACH'S PETREL*: two Jul 13 near Great Gull Island (HH *et al*)—Wilson's Petrel also seen on other trips. On Aug 4 and 6, single Leach's were caught at Great Gull Island during the night in mist nets (D. Cooper). Snowy Egret: the first post-breeding wanderer was noted at Garden City on Jul 15 (AB). Least Bittern: one pair bred at JBWR (LM).

Heron colonies, with numbers of pairs breeding—Canarsie Pol Jun 5 and Jul 9 (HH): Common Egret three, Snowy Egret 100, Black-crowned Night Heron 50, Glossy Ibis 50. JBWR Jun 17 (TD): Snowy Egret 20, Black-crowned Night Heron 30, Glossy Ibis 40. Lawrence Marsh May 30 and Jun 25 (HH): Little Blue Heron six, Common Egret one, Snowy Egret 36, Glossy Ibis six—a drastic reduction in numbers compared with 1966 and 1967. Total breeding pairs of Glossy Ibis in the Region, however, appear to be only slightly reduced. Jones Beach Jul 5 and 23 (WP, FE): at least 12 pairs of Glossy Ibis bred—first time here. Tobay Sanctuary Jun 11 (HH): Common Egret 30, Snowy Egret 20. Oak Beach (WP,FE): Green Heron three, Little Blue Heron one (three young banded), Common Egret five, Snowy Egret 12, Black-crowned Night Heron 15—"very poor year . . . there was a lot of disturbance, people shooting 'pigeons' in groves and target shooting in dunes." (WP). Robbins Island Jun 30 (HH): Black-bittern 15.

Gadwall: four broods raised at Oak Beach (WP,FE); one or more pairs bred at the Southside Sportsman's Club, Oakdale (R. Giffon, *fide* K. Helms)—this species now breeds at six other localities along the south shore from JBWR to Gardiner's Island. It is apparently unrecorded from the north shore and should be looked for, especially in marshes where Black Ducks breed. Ring-necked Duck: male, through season, JBWR (JY,TD *et al*)—second summer record. King Eider: female, through season, JBWR (MK,TD *et al*)—"on Aug 6, I watched it tipping for food in shallow water, in the manner of a Black Duck" (TD).

HAWKS—OWLS: Broad-winged Hawk: Jun 23 Forest Pk (TD)—"calling bird soaring over park, being chased by Redwings." Osprey: over 30 young fledged at Gardiner's Island (Caretaker Mackay, *fide* D. Puleston)—about nine times more than fledged each of the past two years. Peregrine Falcon: Jul 21 Gardiner's Island (BT). Sparrow Hawk: Aug 11 Tobay (TD *et al*)—early migrant. Virginia Rail: six nests were found at Oak Beach (WP,FE)—nesting in a brackish marsh, a new breeding locality for the Region. *BLACK RAIL*: four territorial males were heard all summer at Oak Beach and four birds were trapped and banded (WP,FE)—31

years ago a Black Rail's nest was found at approximately the same spot, the last breeding record in the Region. Common Gallinule: pair with young Aug 17, Pond "X" Lawrence (P. Buckley); pair also bred at JBWR (JY).

American Oystercatcher: pair at Grass Island near Captree, second pair at Fox Island also near Captree, both on Jul 13 (WP,TD,DF); four pairs attempted to breed in the vicinity of Shinnecock Inlet, but only one was successful—fledging two young (L. Wilcox). Willet: nest with four eggs at Tiana Beach, later found destroyed (L. Wilcox)—new nesting locality, 50 miles east of the still growing "colony" at Jones-Gilgo Beach. Purple Sandpiper: three Aug 11 East Rockaway Inlet (R. Sischel)—this species is now reported nearly every summer. Ruff: "winter male" Aug 15 JBWR (WN). AMERICAN AVOCET: Jun 20 Oak Beach (FE); Jul 20–21, JBWR (N. Wagerik *et al*)—only one previous midsummer report for this species. Wilson's Phalarope: two Aug 3 Mecox (TD, P. Buckley, PJ); Aug 15, JBWR (WN).

Parasitic Jaeger: light phase adult Aug 4, Fire Island (PJ,TD); two light phase adults Aug 11, Jones (PJ,TD). GULL-BILLED TERN: two, early June to at least the end of July, Oak Beach (FE,WP,TD,DF)—the first record of a pair summering in our Region (see also Grass Island Tern colony report, below); Aug 4 Orient Pt (FE). Royal Tern: two Aug 5 Lower NY Bay (MK); three Aug 14 Jones (H. McCauley, HH). Black Skimmer: Jun 14 Central Pk (O. Goellet); six Jun 26, Central Park (J. Bull).

Gull, Tern, and Skimmer colonies with numbers of pairs breeding—Gulls: Captree State Pk, 17 visits Apr 26-Jul 7 (TD, *et al*): Great Black-backed Gull 17, Herring Gull 830. Mixed terns: Breezy Pt, Rockaway, Jun 30 (E. Daly, R. Claremont, *et al*): Common Tern 800, Least Tern, two—"469 Common Tern nests counted, the rest estimated." This sizeable colony had never before been censused, although its presence has been known for years. Lawrence Marsh, May 30 and Jun 25 (HH): Common Tern nine—nesting in salt marsh. Fox Island, south of Babylon, Jul 13 (TD, WP,DF): Common Tern 50, Roseate Tern three, Least Tern 10, Black Skimmer 35, Piping Plover 10, Spotted Sandpiper one. Grass Island, south of Babylon, Jul 13 (TD,WP,DF): Herring Gull one, Common Tern 300, Roseate Tern 20, Black Skimmer 30, Spotted Sandpiper one. A pair of GULL-BILLED TERNS was also seen flying over the colony. It is remotely possible that they were nesting here. Moriches Inlet (G. Raynor): Common Tern 500, Roseate Tern 50–75, Black Skimmer 30. Shinnecock Inlet, 2 miles west, Jul 30 (HH): Common Tern 1800, Roseate Tern 700, Black Skimmer 25. Great Gull Island, through summer, (HH, D. Cooper): Common Tern 1300, Roseate Tern 1000. Robbin's Island, Jun 30 (HH): Common Tern 500, Roseate Tern 20. Southold, "Port of Egypt," (AD): Common Tern 75, Least Tern 25+. Stony Brook Harbor, Jun 30 (TD, R. Cioffi): Common Tern 150, Roseate Tern two, Least Tern 120, Piping Plover three. Stony Brook is the only north shore tern colony with Commons and Roseates. Its presence has been known for ten years, but it was never censused. Caumsett State Pk, Lloyd Neck, Jun 20, (BC, AD): Least Tern 50.

Long-eared Owl: a pair raised three young on Gardiner's Island (A. Swoger, BT). Short-eared Owl: "on Jun 18 Enders and I saw a Short-ear in courtship display over the marsh, one mile west of Cedar Beach. It flew up to 150–200 feet and then dove down in the manner of a falcon with folded wings—very spectacular. This bird probably bred out there as we saw it several times during the summer," (WP). SAW-WHET OWL: the pair mentioned in the spring report raised five young at Tobay (R. Barth, F. Schaeffer *et al*).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: a pair nested in a Black Pine on Dune Rd, Hampton Beach (K. Helms *et al*). Great Crested Flycatcher: see introduction. Also see introduction for Yellow-bellied, Acadian, Traill's and Least Flycatcher as well as Eastern Wood Pewee. Red-breasted Nuthatch: an individual summered in oak woods near Glen Head (BC)—casual at this season, no

breeding records. *WHEATEAR*: adult Jun 8, Van Cortlandt Pk (O. Goellet, S. Koelle)—see Field Notes this issue. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pair feeding young at nest, Jun 20 Caumsett State Pk (AD,BC)—the third nesting record for the Region, both previous records in 1963.

*VIREOS—WARBLERS*: Golden-winged Warbler: singing male present at Sagamore Hill until at least Jun 9 (AB,BC)—“apparently lacked a mate.” This species is not known to breed on Long Island. *LAWRENCE’S WARBLER*: Jul 7, Lloyd Harbor Village Pk (B. McEneny). American Redstart: see introduction.

*BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS*: Orchard Oriole: singing subadult male, Jun 20 Caumsett State Pk (BC,AD). Indigo Bunting: see introduction. Dickcissel: four (one singing), Jul 8, Mitchell Field (BC)—apparently arrived this day, earliest fall record by six weeks. Seaside Sparrow: see introduction. White-throated Sparrow: “two spent the summer at East Marion, and were seen frequently by Judd Bennet at his feeder . . . I saw one on Aug 4” (G. Raynor)—casual at this season, not known to breed.

NOTE: Please send in fall reports by Dec. 7.

Thomas H. Davis, 8613 85th Street, Woodhaven, New York 11421

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## BOOK REVIEW

*The Natural History of Undercliff Road*. Daniel Smiley and Frank E. Egler. The Mohonk Trust, Educational Release No. 1, 1968. 45 pp., illus. \$1.00 from the Trust Office, Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561.

Undercliff Road is located below the southeast escarpment of the Shawangunk Mountains west of New Paltz, N.Y., on the property of the Mohonk Trust. About two-thirds of the road is built along the talus slope below conglomerate cliffs. These cliffs, up to 200 feet high, are a favored spot for rock climbers. Along the road there are also a few shale cliffs and shale hills.

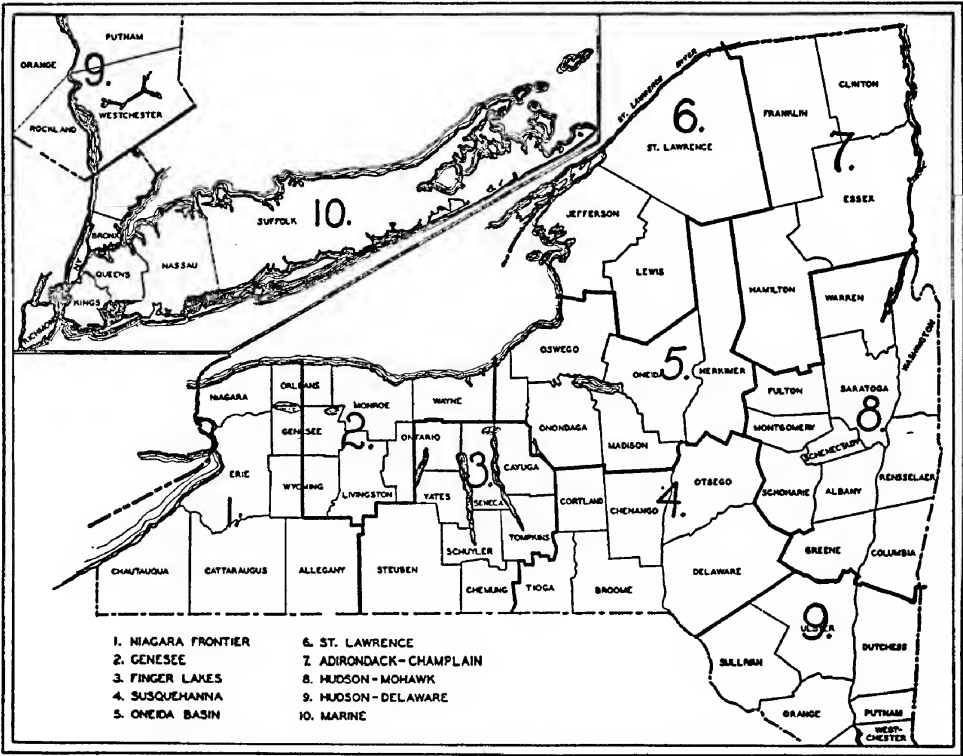
The booklet is written as a self-guiding nature trail along the 2.3 miles of road. Each of seventeen stations is described, with particular emphasis on the plant associations found in that habitat. Also discussed are the geological background and how man's use has affected the area. Some of the animals, birds and insects attracted by the different habitats are mentioned. Facing the page describing each station are reproductions of three photographs illustrating points of interest to be noted there.

Many years ago I lived south of the Mohonk area and occasionally went to the Shawangunks birdwatching and view hunting. I would like to go again with this little booklet, which would greatly increase my appreciation not only of Undercliff Road, but also of the rest of that interesting, long ridge isolated by wide valleys from the other ranges of hills in the area.

Mr. Smiley and Mr. Egler, as well as the Mohonk Trust, are to be commended for this first educational release. To walk Undercliff Road with this booklet to encourage a more seeing eye and a better understanding of inter-relationships between rock formations, plants found growing in close association with each, animal occurrence and the effect of human disturbance, would greatly increase the visitor's enjoyment of the area. Naturalists in other areas should be encouraged to work up similar booklets.

DWM

## REPORTING REGIONS



**For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2**



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